

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 7, 2001 - 1:30 P.M.

CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WEBBER CENTER

OCALA, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

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Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</p> <p>2 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER</p> <p>3 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE</p> <p>4 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN</p> <p>5 SENATOR DARYL L. JONES</p> <p>6 SENATOR JAMES E. KING</p> <p>7 SENATOR RON KLEIN</p> <p>8 SENATOR ROD SMITH</p> <p>9 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE BYRD</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE SANDY MURMAN</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY BALL</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS K. BAXLEY</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE GUS MICHAEL BILIRAKIS</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK C. BRUMMER</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE TERRY L. FIELDS</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE HUGH H. GIBSON, III</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE RON L. GREENSTEIN</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Call the meeting to order. It's</p> <p>3 my pleasure to welcome all of you to the public hearing</p> <p>4 today. Representatives and Senators are here to listen to</p> <p>5 the residents of this area and consider your input into</p> <p>6 this very important process.</p> <p>7 Since these are joint hearings, we've divided our</p> <p>8 responsibilities throughout the many public hearings that</p> <p>9 we will hold across the state. It is my pleasure at this</p> <p>10 time to introduce Senator Dan Webster, who is chairman of</p> <p>11 the Senate Redistricting Committee. And for the purpose of</p> <p>12 today's hearing, Chairman Webster will preside. You're</p> <p>13 recognized, Senator Webster.</p> <p>14 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Chairman Byrd. It's my</p> <p>15 pleasure also to welcome you to this, the third of quite a</p> <p>16 few hearings that will be carried on around the state</p> <p>17 throughout the fall and -- summer and fall. Let me first</p> <p>18 explain the procedure. Let me first see how the mike</p> <p>19 works.</p> <p>20 Let me first explain the procedure we will use</p> <p>21 throughout these public hearings. This is a public</p> <p>22 hearing. And the sole and only purpose is to hear from the</p> <p>23 public on matters of redistricting. It's not a committee</p> <p>24 meeting. We will not be taking legislative action in this</p> <p>25 or any subsequent public hearing.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE PERRY C. MCGRUFF, JR.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE JOE H. PICKENS</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY M. RYAN</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE WATERS</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 Instead, this is a public forum where we have the</p> <p>2 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral</p> <p>3 district. It is not the time for legislative debate. All</p> <p>4 Representatives and Senators will have numerous</p> <p>5 opportunities at subsequent committee meetings, hearings,</p> <p>6 floor debate and other things to address their concerns.</p> <p>7 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not</p> <p>8 diminish their voice by taking up their valuable time today</p> <p>9 in debate. Following my brief remarks, counsel will give a</p> <p>10 general overview of legal considerations of redistricting.</p> <p>11 Staff will then provide some specific information about</p> <p>12 census results in this region and around the state. The</p> <p>13 rest is reserved for you, the citizens.</p> <p>14 Every ten years after completion of the updated</p> <p>15 national census, the Constitution requires that the Florida</p> <p>16 Legislature redraw boundaries of districts of the House of</p> <p>17 Representatives, the Florida Senate and Florida</p> <p>18 Congressional districts. The Legislature will take up this</p> <p>19 task in the next legislative session beginning on</p> <p>20 January 22nd, 2002 and ending March 22nd, 2002. The</p> <p>21 districts we draw will be first used in the fall election</p> <p>22 in 2002.</p> <p>23 Redistricting is a central element of our</p> <p>24 representative democracy. We take this on with humility</p> <p>25 and due regard for the importance and difficulty of the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 job. We also are committed to -- that the process will be  2 fair and open and inclusive. These public hearings  3 represent a crucial first step in this process. We  4 appreciate that we are doing the work of the people. We  5 want to hear from you and help you participate in a  6 meaningful way.</p> <p>7 To encourage public participation, Senate President  8 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney, have scheduled  9 numerous hearings around the state, at least 20, maybe  10 more. All members of the Legislature's Redistricting  11 Committee as well as local delegation members have been  12 invited to participate in these public hearings.</p> <p>13 These hearings are taped, they are available on the  14 web after the meeting, they are available on-line during  15 the meeting. The House and Senate have designed web sites  16 as a tool for public input and will broadcast select  17 hearings on Florida public television stations. The web  18 addresses for the House and Senate Redistricting are  19 available on the back table. There is a whole list of  20 things that are available back there which link you up with  21 our legislative web site along with the Census Bureau's web  22 site.</p> <p>23 Redistricting plans for the State, House and Senate  24 will be passed in the form of a joint resolution which will  25 not be subject to the Governor's veto. However, it will be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 reapportionment and redistricting. Senator Scott.</p> <p>2 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members. As the chairman  4 indicated, I'm special counsel for the Florida Senate in  5 redistricting. I'm also here with Miguel DeGrandy, I saw  6 him earlier, the House counsel --</p> <p>7 SENATOR KING: This is not a good beginning.</p> <p>8 SENATOR SCOTT: Did you touch this microphone, Senator  9 King?</p> <p>10 SENATOR KING: I swear I didn't touch it.</p> <p>11 (Laughter.)</p> <p>12 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Miguel DeGrandy is the lead  13 counsel for the House. And in accordance with our  14 protocol, as the chairmen are switching sides, today is my  15 turn to make a brief presentation to give the members but  16 also especially the members of the public kind of an  17 overview of some of the legal issues that we will be facing  18 in reapportionment. This is not intended to give anything  19 more than an introduction and, you know, we hope that it  20 will be of some help.</p> <p>21 As the chairman stated, the legal requirement for  22 reapportionment falls to the Legislature in Florida. And  23 because of the -- in the last ten years Florida has grown  24 in population, we have two additional congressional  25 districts, the districts -- can everybody hear me? We're</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan  2 determining congressional districts will not be reviewed by  3 the Florida Supreme Court, but will be subject to the  4 approval or veto of the Governor.</p> <p>5 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000  6 census. It is the essential building block on which  7 Florida's redistricting plan will be built. The United  8 States Census web site is available at the sign-in table.</p> <p>9 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We  10 encourage each member of the public to testify and to help  11 us craft your Legislature district. We also encourage  12 written submissions in addition to testimony during the  13 public hearing. Everyone who wishes to speak must make  14 sure that they fill out a speaker's card. That is the only  15 way we will know who wishes to speak and after the hearing  16 who actually spoke. Speaker's cards are also available at  17 the sign-in table. In addition, because we want to hear as  18 many people as possible, we must limit your comments to  19 four minutes.</p> <p>20 On behalf of Senate President John McKay, House  21 Speaker Tom Feeney, and members of the Florida Legislature  22 I look forward to working with you-all for this historic  23 and important task. At this time I'll recognize Former  24 State Senator Jim Scott who served in the previous  25 reapportionment process and is the Senate lead counsel for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 growing from 23 to 25 congressional districts in Florida.</p> <p>2 I hope all the subsequent speakers appreciate me being  3 the guinea pig for the microphone. (Laughter.)</p> <p>4 And as the chairman pointed out, congressional  5 redistricting is a law which is subject to the Governor's  6 veto, while reapportionment regarding the state House and  7 Senate is a joint resolution that the Governor does not  8 have a role in, however the Florida Supreme Court does have  9 a role.</p> <p>10 The session starts in January and ends in March. If  11 the regular session ends without a redistricting plan, then  12 the Governor is required to convene the Legislature in  13 special session for not more than 30 days. If the special  14 session ends without the adoption of a plan, then the  15 Attorney General will petition the Florida Supreme Court  16 and the Supreme Court will commence deliberations on a plan  17 and would complete a plan in no more than 60 days.</p> <p>18 If during the session, which everyone hopes is the  19 case or the special session, reapportionment plans are  20 adopted by the Legislature for the Legislature then they go  21 to the Florida Supreme Court for review. And as we stated,  22 the congressional plan goes to the Governor for his review.</p> <p>23 If the Florida Supreme Court determines that the plan  24 is not valid, then the Governor reconvenes the Legislature  25 in an extraordinary session and they have 15 days, you have</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 15 days to adopt a resolution.</p> <p>2 In adopting a redistricting plan, the Legislature will</p> <p>3 be guided by several factors including the principal of one</p> <p>4 person and one vote, and the requirements of the Florida</p> <p>5 Constitution and the United States Constitution. With</p> <p>6 regard to one person, one vote, this principle was</p> <p>7 developed from a series of cases in the 1960s by the United</p> <p>8 States Supreme Court which -- what it really means is that</p> <p>9 each person's vote in Florida, no matter where they live,</p> <p>10 should count as much as every other person's vote.</p> <p>11 These cases in the '60s came from several states where</p> <p>12 the Legislature was malapportioned, meaning that 50,000</p> <p>13 people might be in one House district and as much as 200-</p> <p>14 or 250,000 in another and therefore they were not getting</p> <p>15 equal representation. And the Supreme Court throughout</p> <p>16 these districts -- and as bad as it might seem for doing</p> <p>17 this every ten years as far as time, I think in one year</p> <p>18 the Florida Legislature was in session for like nine</p> <p>19 consecutive months because every 30 days they had to do a</p> <p>20 new reapportionment plan because the courts kept throwing</p> <p>21 it out.</p> <p>22 In Florida we search for equality for one person one</p> <p>23 vote and we do -- there can be some deviation, but with</p> <p>24 regard to congressional reapportionment, not much. In</p> <p>25 fact, some of the -- where the federal courts have drawn</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties. The vast</p> <p>2 majority of these preclearances, and that's what the</p> <p>3 Legislature has done and would intend to do, has been by</p> <p>4 the Attorney General's Office. And you submit this plan</p> <p>5 and then they have 60 days to act on it. So from the time</p> <p>6 the plan is completed, they have up to 60 days. Hopefully</p> <p>7 they wouldn't take that long, but they do have that long.</p> <p>8 Even -- well, the purpose of their review in Florida</p> <p>9 and other covered jurisdictions is to bear the burden of</p> <p>10 demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not have</p> <p>11 the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or</p> <p>12 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or</p> <p>13 membership in a language minority group.</p> <p>14 In conclusion, members, and members of the public, the</p> <p>15 legal rules are somewhat complicated. This short</p> <p>16 presentation only really scratches the surface of some of</p> <p>17 the delicate legal issues, some of which are still being</p> <p>18 and have not been completely decided by the courts.</p> <p>19 So, Mr. Chairman, and members, together with my House</p> <p>20 colleague Miguel DeGrandy, we're ready to provide you with</p> <p>21 any assistance we can in this hearing and throughout the</p> <p>22 process.</p> <p>23 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott.</p> <p>24 Now I'd like the record to recognize John Guthrie, who</p> <p>25 is the staff director dealing with redistricting to present</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 these plans they have gone to within six people or 46</p> <p>2 people, period, with like zero deviation. The courts have</p> <p>3 allowed up to 1 percent in some instances in congressional</p> <p>4 redistricting where the Legislature has done it.</p> <p>5 With regard to Legislative reapportionment, you are</p> <p>6 permitted some larger deviation which could be as much as</p> <p>7 10 percent, meaning that any district could be as much as</p> <p>8 5 percent low or 5 percent high with a total deviation of</p> <p>9 10 percent. But that's only under certain circumstances</p> <p>10 which sometimes gets complicated.</p> <p>11 In Florida and everywhere we have the Voting Rights</p> <p>12 Act. Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act prohibits</p> <p>13 any practice or procedure, including certain redistricting</p> <p>14 practices, that impairs the ability of a minority community</p> <p>15 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with</p> <p>16 nonminority voters. Florida is also one of the states that</p> <p>17 is covered by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.</p> <p>18 Section 5 is the preclearance section, and what Section 5</p> <p>19 requires is that where there are -- in covered</p> <p>20 jurisdictions, prior to any change, which includes this</p> <p>21 redistricting plan, that it must be approved by either the</p> <p>22 Attorney General of the United States or the Federal</p> <p>23 District Court in the District of Columbia.</p> <p>24 This process, as I said, is known as preclearance. In</p> <p>25 Florida, the covered jurisdictions include Collier, Hardee,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 an overview of the population numbers.</p> <p>2 You're recognized.</p> <p>3 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record</p> <p>4 my name is John Guthrie. I'm with the staff of the Florida</p> <p>5 Senate.</p> <p>6 (Off-the-record discussion.)</p> <p>7 MR. GUTHRIE: Mr. Chairman, Chairman Byrd, members of</p> <p>8 the committee, what I would like to do for the next few</p> <p>9 minutes is to, in order to put this public hearing in Ocala</p> <p>10 into some perspective, is review some of the facts and</p> <p>11 figures from the 2000 census and their implication for</p> <p>12 redistricting in Florida.</p> <p>13 The overriding thing that we need to be aware of in</p> <p>14 redistricting is that Florida is a rapidly growing state.</p> <p>15 Between 1990 and 2000 Florida's total population increased</p> <p>16 by more than 3 million people or 23.5 percent. The 1990</p> <p>17 population was under 13 million. By 2000 we had grown to</p> <p>18 almost 16 million people in Florida. As a result,</p> <p>19 Florida's delegation in the United States House of</p> <p>20 Representatives will increase by two beginning in the --</p> <p>21 with the elections in 2002. The new delegation will have</p> <p>22 25 members of the U.S. House.</p> <p>23 The other major observation about the census as it</p> <p>24 affects redistricting is that Florida's growth has not been</p> <p>25 uniform. Different areas experienced different rates of</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 growth during the ten-year period. For example, Flagler  2 County grew most rapidly during the last ten years, growing  3 at a rate of 73.6 percent. Sumpter County grew by  4 68.9 percent, Collier County by 65.3 percent, and Wakulla  5 County by 61 percent. Finally Osceola, the fifth most  6 rapidly growing county in Florida, grew by 60.1 percent.  7 On the other end of the spectrum Monroe County, which  8 grew most slowly among the Florida counties, increased at a  9 rate of 2 percent. Pinellas County and Putnam County both  10 grew at a rate of 8.2 percent. And Gadsden County grew at  11 a rate of 9.7 percent. All other Florida counties grew at  12 a rate of 10 percent or greater.  13 Let's bring it home to Marion County and look at what  14 happened to the population here. Between 1990 and 2000 the  15 population in Marion County increased by 33 percent to just  16 over 200,000 people. That puts Marion County 16th among  17 Florida's 67 counties in terms of its growth rate.  18 As Senator Scott was mentioning, it all begins with  19 the United States census. And Article I of the United  20 States Constitution provides that there will be a decennial  21 census for the express purpose of equalizing populations or  22 providing equal representation in the United States  23 Congress. In Florida, Congressional, Senate and House  24 districts will be adjusted based on the 2000 census and  25 those new districts will take effect with the elections in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 the change in population density that has occurred during  2 the past ten years. And what you see is that the downtown  3 areas of Gainesville, Ocala, and Palatka have not grown as  4 quickly. The red colors indicate areas that have grown  5 slower than the state average. And so the downtown areas  6 of Ocala, Gainesville and Palatka have grown more slowly  7 than the state average; whereas, the area southwest and  8 southeast of Ocala, particularly the Villages in Sumpter  9 County and some of the areas south and northwest of  10 Gainesville, have grown very rapidly.  11 This graphic shows population growth relative to the  12 state average. So instead of looking at density it looks  13 at whether areas grew or lost population and gives you an  14 idea of where population growth occurred both in urban and  15 rural areas. Looking at the current districts in the  16 central Florida region, we see that the three congressional  17 districts that are in this region had differing growth  18 rates as well. They all grew, but District 3 did not grow  19 by enough population in order to keep up with the state  20 average or what was required. As a result, District 3 is  21 going to need to gain about 53,000 people in order to come  22 to equal population.  23 On the other hand District 6, which includes most of  24 Marion County, is presently 117,000 people -- has 117,000  25 too many people in order to be an ideal Congressional</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 2002.  2 Districts that now have substantially too many people  3 based on the 2000 census are going to have to become  4 smaller or include less territory, and districts that are  5 substantially underpopulated will have to gain territory in  6 order to make up the difference or come up to enough  7 population to equalize the rate of growth that has occurred  8 throughout the state. The average district population in  9 Florida for Congressional districts based on the 1990  10 census was 563,000 people. Based on the 2000 census, this  11 will increase by 14 percent to over 639,000 people per  12 Congressional district.  13 Likewise, based on the '90 census the average  14 population per Senate district was 323,000 people. The  15 average population per House district was 108,000 people.  16 Based on the 2000 census these will both increase at the  17 same rate as the overall growth of population in the state,  18 23.5 percent, to 400,000 and 103,000, respectively.  19 The chart that I've prepared here gives you a graphic  20 to indicate the growth of Congressional, Senate and House  21 constituencies during the ten-year decade. The green color  22 indicates what the population was per district in the --  23 after the 1990 census. The blue color indicates what the  24 population will be after the 2000 census.  25 Looking at this local area again, this graphic shows</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 district. Congressional District 5 in Marion County and  2 north and south is currently overpopulated by 50,000  3 people.  4 This map shows the over/under count of Senate  5 districts in this region and you see a very similar  6 pattern. Senate District 2, which includes parts of  7 Gainesville or Alachua County, Putnam County and then north  8 to Jacksonville, is underpopulated by about 69,000 people.  9 The districts that include southeast Marion County,  10 District 8 and District 11, are overpopulated by about  11 50,000 each. And the district in north Marion County is  12 very close to equal population, just 1500 people below what  13 the average district would be. And with the House  14 districts we see the same pattern.  15 The graphics that I'm showing here are available on  16 the Legislature's web site. So if members or people in the  17 audience would like to look at these in greater detail  18 later, please visit the House or the Senate web site to  19 look for these and much other information that's available  20 to you. And that's it for my presentation here,  21 Mr. Chairman.  22 SENATOR WEBSTER: Okay, thank you, Mr. Guthrie. The  23 way we will proceed, we are here to hear from you. And  24 each of you that want to speak have filled out a speaker's  25 card. They have in the bottom, lower right corner a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 number. I'm going to go right in order. I know some maybe  2 swapped numbers, maybe they sold their number, I'm not  3 sure. (Laughter.)  4 We'll start off and see how it all goes. So if you'll  5 be aware of your number, then we can move as quickly as  6 possible. We have here, if everyone took their four  7 minutes, over two hours of testimony. So we'll start with  8 Number 1.  9 MR. HARRIS: I wasn't Number 1, but I purchased that  10 position.  11 I'm Randy Harris. Do you need our address as well for  12 the record?  13 SENATOR WEBSTER: I'd like your number.  14 MR. HARRIS: Number 29, I'm now Number 1. Mr. Mautner  15 has been gracious enough to swap places with me. I'm a  16 County Commissioner and I need to get back to a public  17 meeting that's taking place right now so I'll be very  18 brief.  19 I'll represent myself as a citizen and as a member of  20 the Marion County Commission. I think most of us would  21 agree that from our most complex to most basic level of  22 government in the state of Florida and across the nation we  23 are best represented when we are represented from within,  24 and when our representation comes from among us. And I'm  25 sure that you will spend countless hours working to assure</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 the like.  2 I'm Number 2 and Number 3 due to error in the rubber  3 stamp and bona fide Number 2 at least. So I'll try not to  4 take eight minutes and go ahead and try to -- It's my  5 contention that Alachua County, being small enough to be  6 simply a part of a Congressional district or state Senate  7 district, and certainly no more than two state House  8 districts, really should not be split up to any more  9 districts than it particularly needs to be. Currently  10 right now it consumes three -- parts of three state House  11 and three state Senate districts.  12 This owing to our being a university town, we have an  13 unusually active discourse in public affairs. Our county  14 has a very monolithic, within reason as much as one can in  15 public matters, ideas and notions on how things are done.  16 And I honestly feel that to divide us in such a way that  17 most of our vote gets split up along with neighboring  18 communities is tantamount really to denying us the right to  19 one person one vote in terms of us actually being able to  20 elect somebody who represents us in Tallahassee or in  21 Washington.  22 More importantly, in that there is a rule, as I  23 understand it, in Florida's Legislature that bills  24 affecting a single county only must have the support of all  25 legislators in that county, all from the state House and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 that that takes place.  2 The county of Marion is blessed, we have very  3 excellent legislative representation. And certainly we do  4 not complain with the representation that we have, with one  5 exception. And we all know our population has grown, and  6 it is time for us to have more representation from within  7 Marion County.  8 I'm going to read a statement quickly from the  9 chairman of the Marion County Commission. This is by  10 consensus that we sent this over today. The Marion County  11 Board of Marion County Commissioners believes the division  12 of Marion County into numerous legislative districts  13 results in the diminishing of the ability to present issues  14 common to all Marion County citizens to the Florida  15 Legislature. Therefore, the Board desires that this be  16 taken into account in future redistricting decisions.  17 And I will return the balance of my time,  18 Mr. Chairman, thank you.  19 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 2, if you'll state your name,  20 and if you represent someone, say that also.  21 MR. LIPSIO: My name is Vincent Lipsio, I'm just a  22 private citizen of Alachua County. Although I've become  23 involved in some political things locally, I have never  24 aspired to hold office and never have. And speak really  25 for myself and for friends who couldn't make it today and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 Senate. This can be a problem when we have six people  2 representing us when only three are really needed.  3 Recently in Alachua County we had a referendum, which  4 was really only a straw poll because we would need the  5 state Legislature to authorize us to have home rule whereby  6 we would have stricter standards in the state on campaign  7 finance contributions, and 68 percent voted in favor of  8 having this happen.  9 However, because one state Senator and one state House  10 Representative only had a few hundred people I believe  11 within the county, little corners of the county, we needed  12 their approval as well as that of the four people  13 representing most of the county. And just as political  14 haggling came out, this never became a bill even though it  15 was very clearly the intent of the people of Alachua County  16 to have this happen. And of course the county is not  17 authorized to do this on its own behalf. State law does  18 not provide for us to do that.  19 The real problem here is not only that we couldn't be  20 heard, have our issue come up, will the people be heard,  21 but also being a university town there are quite a number  22 of students who, as you may realize, young people tend to  23 vote far less than older people.  24 And there is very falling voting rates within this  25 country. In fact, I believe of all democracies in the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 world we have the lowest participation. So I've been told,  2 I haven't verified that figure. But certainly far lower  3 than in Europe, Australia, whatnot.</p> <p>4 And students look at this and say, Well 68 percent of  5 the people voted for something, that's not even going to be  6 considered, you know, it is giving cause for a great deal  7 of cynicism among younger citizens, more educated citizens  8 of our country. And I think it bodes poorly for the future  9 of our republic to have our vote diluted in such a manner.</p> <p>10 I also am seeing that -- you know --</p> <p>11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Fifteen seconds.</p> <p>12 MR. LIPSIO: -- I suppose I should wrap up by saying  13 that I also see that there is a list of 15 organizations  14 that have signed on here to a petition to keep things as  15 compact as possible. And I think these organizations'  16 views should be heard. I can't really continue with that.  17 Thank you.</p> <p>18 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 3.</p> <p>19 MR. RICH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and  20 committee. I'm Curtis A. Rich, Sr., from the city of  21 Crystal River in Citrus County. And today I'm representing  22 myself as a citizen of Citrus County. I was mayor of the  23 city of Crystal River from 1991 through the year 2000. I  24 have been familiar with Citrus County since the population  25 was about 9,000 people. You know that we've grown a lot</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 very detrimental to Citrus County for the last couple of  2 years. Things fall through the cracks when they are set up  3 like this.</p> <p>4 I would ask you to consider putting us into a district  5 of Citrus County, the 200 corridor, Dunnellon, possibly  6 Yankeetown and Inglis. This is something that I think we  7 would have a group in common. So please consider that.</p> <p>8 And as far as our senatorial district we're in fair  9 shape I think there. There probably needs to be some  10 speaking done, but I think we seem to be pleased with the  11 representation districtwide and we have an excellent  12 Representative there doing an excellent job for us.</p> <p>13 So I'd respectfully ask you to consider these elements  14 brought forth to you. Thank you very much for your time  15 today.</p> <p>16 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 4.</p> <p>17 MR. LINDEN: Mr. Chairman, and members of the  18 committee, good afternoon. I'm Al Linden, a combat-wounded  19 Vietnam veteran living in Gainesville, Florida. This  20 region and particularly the Fifth Congressional District is  21 home to one of the largest communities of veterans across  22 the country. Our nation's veterans have always tried to  23 live up to the ideals and sacrifices and service. That's  24 why we cherish community leaders who have honored our  25 sacrifice and our service.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 since those days.</p> <p>2 So far as our Fifth Congressional District is  3 concerned, we have a strong community interest among the  4 people in our district, made up mostly of counties that are  5 in the Nature Coast Chamber of Commerce. We are very heavy  6 in ecotourism and fishing and we have a lot in common.</p> <p>7 I think there is a strong, very strong bipartisan  8 feeling in our area to keep our district, the Fifth  9 District, as intact as possible where it is now. Maybe  10 some tweaking, but it's not broke, it doesn't need a lot of  11 fixing.</p> <p>12 Like I say, we have a lot of bipartisan support. I  13 keep my ear very close to what's going on in our area and  14 we have excellent representation and we would like to keep  15 the district as close to where it is now as possible.</p> <p>16 As far as Citrus County is concerned, we have a split  17 in our state senatorial district which is no reflection on  18 any representation of this district. But because it's  19 split and because of the spread nature of the district, we  20 have not had the representation in Citrus County that we  21 should have. We need to have Citrus County in one  22 district, and we would operate much more efficiently that  23 way, the Senators can operate more efficiently that way.</p> <p>24 And I certainly hope you'll take that in consideration  25 as far as taking us out of this split because it's been</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 Congresswoman Karen Thurman is one such leader. Let  2 me briefly describe three of the accomplishments in the  3 area of veterans' affairs. First, she helped change the  4 way the federal dollars come to the state and she has  5 helped direct those funds to build clinics in four counties  6 that do not have hospitals, veterans' hospitals. That is  7 so the veterans can have access to health care in their own  8 communities, they don't have to drive 100 miles or so.</p> <p>9 Second, she has initiated and signed into -- it's a  10 law that was signed into law last year to make the  11 prescription drug benefit available to Medicare-eligible  12 military retirees, which is much needed in our area.</p> <p>13 And, third, she has helped to honor and respect those  14 of us who are fortunate to wear the military uniform and to  15 fight for our democracy. Her work has truly honored our  16 bravery and the commitment of our armed forces, our  17 veterans and their families.</p> <p>18 These issues are enormously important to the people of  19 our Fifth Congressional District. I ask that you not  20 divide the community of interest of veterans across the  21 Fifth District. And that will benefit greatly the current  22 configuration of the district and the leadership that both  23 Karen Thurman and other members of the Fifth Congressional  24 District have brought. Thank you very much for your time.</p> <p>25 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 4</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 -- Number 5.</p> <p>2 MR. BRADLEY: My name is Dick Bradley. I'm the</p> <p>3 president of the Nature Coast Republican Club in Crystal</p> <p>4 River, Citrus County. And one of the previous speakers</p> <p>5 talked about the same thing that I'm speaking of and that</p> <p>6 is that we feel strongly that Citrus County ought to have</p> <p>7 its own state Senator. And the present district is all out</p> <p>8 of shape and not conducive to reaching our Senator that</p> <p>9 easy.</p> <p>10 So I just want to go on record for that, sir. Thank</p> <p>11 you.</p> <p>12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 6.</p> <p>13 MS. MILLER: To the protocol that's been established,</p> <p>14 so to all of you, I am Lois B. Miller representing Florida</p> <p>15 Association of Women's Club -- Women's Club, Youth Clubs,</p> <p>16 Incorporated. And it is also known as FAWC. We are 93</p> <p>17 years old, the oldest black organization in the state of</p> <p>18 Florida and we are a member of the oldest, one of the</p> <p>19 oldest and most active groups of black women in the</p> <p>20 country. And we, of course, do our work for everybody and</p> <p>21 that is the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs</p> <p>22 headquartered in Washington. We have a five-story,</p> <p>23 beautiful headquarters' building there that we dedicated</p> <p>24 last October. And it is a sight to behold. You can look</p> <p>25 at the White House from our building.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 black girls. And we had seven colleges. I'm in the</p> <p>2 process of trying to duplicate one of those colleges on</p> <p>3 this site, I ask prayers on this.</p> <p>4 So we want to let you know we're a legacy to deal</p> <p>5 with, we will be here, we're not going anywhere, and we</p> <p>6 don't have far to even go to rest. We're in between all</p> <p>7 these cemeteries.</p> <p>8 Thank you. Just consider us because we're here and</p> <p>9 we're going to be there for you, we want you to be there</p> <p>10 for us.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WEBSTER: All right. Number 7.</p> <p>12 MR. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is</p> <p>13 Tom Franklin. I won't try to match that performance. I'm</p> <p>14 a businessman in Citrus County. You cannot see the White</p> <p>15 House or even the courthouse from my office. (Laughter.)</p> <p>16 I'm sure that I speak for a consensus of business</p> <p>17 people in Citrus County that we would sincerely like to</p> <p>18 have one Senator represent us. I have no problem with</p> <p>19 either of the Senators that do represent us, but I know it</p> <p>20 would be easier for me and I think for everyone else there</p> <p>21 to identify with one Senator and one Representative in</p> <p>22 Tallahassee for all of our issues.</p> <p>23 It's not meant as a political position, but really as</p> <p>24 a politically aware person dealing with government from</p> <p>25 time to time it is difficult sometimes to have to explain</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 So I represent Florida and we have established our</p> <p>2 headquarters at 1150 Northwest Seventh Street here in good,</p> <p>3 old Ocala, which is my hometown. I'm a native, born here,</p> <p>4 traveled quite a bit all over the country, came back home,</p> <p>5 still traveling.</p> <p>6 And we do have our headquarters at 1150 Northwest</p> <p>7 Seventh Street, here in Ocala. It's east of Martin Luther</p> <p>8 King. I think our Representative didn't know exactly</p> <p>9 where. We are hanging out with the funeral parlors. Just</p> <p>10 walk over. (Laughter.) We are adjacent to Chestnut</p> <p>11 Cemetery. He kept putting me near Cunningham, he's a good</p> <p>12 friend of ours incidentally. I had meetings in his funeral</p> <p>13 parlor for years before I had a place for meetings.</p> <p>14 (Laughter.)</p> <p>15 But we do hold about 100 voting candidates in our</p> <p>16 pocket. We have three local clubs here in the Ocala</p> <p>17 district and one state auxiliary, and we are very proud of</p> <p>18 that because all these ladies, I can assure you, are bona</p> <p>19 fide voters and we do take care of our, you know,</p> <p>20 obligations.</p> <p>21 So we are a vital force in the diversity that you have</p> <p>22 in this county and we stand to demand and hold our spot as</p> <p>23 being a force that you deal with, we hope. We will deal</p> <p>24 with you in the manner we always do. We operated the</p> <p>25 school for delinquent girls when there was no school for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 to a Senator that I live in your district although my</p> <p>2 office is in another district. I'd really like to see us</p> <p>3 uniform.</p> <p>4 Our county over the last 100 years it's been in</p> <p>5 existence has really been divided much of that time on an</p> <p>6 east/west basis. Perhaps 50 years ago it would have made</p> <p>7 sense to have two different Senators represent us, but I</p> <p>8 assure you that is no longer the case. We have a unified</p> <p>9 chamber now, we have many of our charitable organizations</p> <p>10 and business organizations unified, and I think everyone in</p> <p>11 the county really feels that they are simply citizens of</p> <p>12 Citrus County. And I think it would do us all a lot of</p> <p>13 good to be represented by one Senator. Thank you.</p> <p>14 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 7 -- 8.</p> <p>15 MR. POOLE: Coming together is a beginning, keeping</p> <p>16 together is progress, but working together is success.</p> <p>17 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm pleased to be</p> <p>18 with you and certainly the audience. Your presence is</p> <p>19 indicative of your concern and commitment to good</p> <p>20 government, and certainly it is a good practice of American</p> <p>21 democracy.</p> <p>22 I'm Eugene A. Poole, President of the Florida Voters</p> <p>23 League, Incorporated. The Florida Voters League,</p> <p>24 Incorporated is a community-based, statewide, nonpartisan,</p> <p>25 nonprofit Florida corporation organization. Our mission is</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 dedicated to the freedom, fundamental fairness, and due  2 process provided for in Florida and the United States  3 Constitution for all citizens.</p> <p>4 Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, as you review and  5 evaluate urban sprawl, growth and the concentration of  6 residents or citizens throughout Florida, there are a few  7 things I'd like to remind that you keep in order, or you  8 keep in mind as you certainly go with the task of  9 redistricting the great state of Florida.</p> <p>10 Let me just apologize a little bit. One time I was  11 extremely ambulatory until Representatives Baxley and  12 Jennings broke both of my legs. (Laughter.) Consequently,  13 it left me confined to a wheelchair, but, ladies and  14 gentlemen, I'm pleased to be here.</p> <p>15 This is a golden opportunity, this is a golden  16 opportunity for us to certainly contribute to the  17 democratic process. As you've heard from some of my  18 predecessors, the speakers who preceded me made it very  19 clear about what we need to do. I'm sure I will see most  20 of you somewhere before these sessions or these hearings  21 end. But let me just give you about seven different  22 points, or eight for the most part. It is significant  23 though that I'm Number 8 and I have eight things I want to  24 share with you.</p> <p>25 I have provided each of you, I hope, or the clerk or</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 Number 5, is there a state plan for redistricting? If  2 not, will there be a public hearing afterwards? I'm a  3 little bit disappointed that I've not seen that plan. If  4 it exists, maybe I just have not seen it. Maybe I need to  5 get a set of glasses and I may do that. But if there is  6 not a plan, and I don't think I've seen one and I've been  7 pretty doggone sharp on reviewing and listening and  8 reading, but if there is not one, if there is going to be  9 one I would simply ask, Will there, in fact, be an  10 opportunity to deal with that problem.</p> <p>11 Number 6, ensure that adequate notification of  12 scheduled public hearings --</p> <p>13 SENATOR WEBSTER: Your four minutes is up so you said  14 eight?</p> <p>15 MR. POOLE: Yes, sir.</p> <p>16 SENATOR WEBSTER: Hurry up and do the eight.</p> <p>17 MR. POOLE: Thank you very kindly. Sorry for the  18 delay, because I don't like disobedience and you've been --  19 I'm a good disciplinarian, but I'll comply.</p> <p>20 Let me move on. Assure that adequate notification of  21 scheduled public hearings are well advised or advertised  22 for all citizens throughout Florida. Obviously that's a  23 problem. And let me just suggest on that particular one,  24 you have 20 scheduled hearings; 14 are at what I call times  25 that are not conducive, good times. In other words, 10:00,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 the receptionist gave you a copy of our concerns from the  2 Florida Voters League. Number one, the United States  3 Constitution prohibits taxation without representation. I  4 don't need to elaborate on that, you know exactly what that  5 means.</p> <p>6 Number 2, fairness must be the benchmark for all of  7 your decisions, fairness. Believe me, that is going to be  8 the key issue. And if you're not fair, it adversely  9 affects all of our citizens, our future generations. Our  10 children's children's children's children will be affected  11 by your decision that you make today. That's five  12 generations in case you missed the number.</p> <p>13 Number 3, do not allow partisan politics to influence  14 your decision. I can see a diverse group of politicians or  15 lawmakers here, I'm impressed with that, but I will be  16 super-impressed once you have given your final project.</p> <p>17 Number 4, I strongly caution all of you not to dilute  18 strict minority districts, better known as gerrymandering,  19 in order to accommodate partisan -- it says advances, but I  20 think advantage. You-all know what that means. You've  21 heard some predecessors or my preceding speakers make it  22 clear that you not dilute. And I'm sure, ladies and  23 gentlemen, we would like to satisfy our partisan  24 differences, but let's put away those biases now and work  25 as one.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 9:00, that's absurd.</p> <p>2 Number 7, make every effort to hold hearings where  3 it's convenient and without the discomfort for the  4 citizens. Example, public hearings. Make sure that they  5 are available.</p> <p>6 Number 8, allow all citizens who desire, to  7 participate in the hearing.</p> <p>8 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very kindly. I am  9 sorry that I ran over the four minutes. I thought it was  10 five, but then sometimes I'm wrong. Again, God bless you,  11 good luck, and I'll see you again.</p> <p>12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 9.</p> <p>13 MR. HERSEY: Thank you very much. Thank you for  14 allowing us to come and participate in this process. My  15 name is Don Hersey, Election Supervisor, Putnam County,  16 Florida. We were one of the counties that, as you noticed,  17 had slow growth but we are hoping to do better in the  18 future. We don't have any gates up, Senator Smith. We do  19 appreciate your allowing us to be here.</p> <p>20 I want to talk to you a little about this process.  21 I've been fortunate to have been involved in this for, this  22 is -- will be my second one. Actually, we've had  23 two-and-a-half in Putnam County because of a court order  24 that had us do three.</p> <p>25 But the one thing that we've always heard is</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 communities of interest. This is one thing that I wanted  2 to talk to you about. All of you are elected officials,  3 you understand the process. One thing that we have a  4 problem with in the elections business is allowing your  5 constituents to know what district they are in, who their  6 Representatives are, and that type of thing. It's very  7 important for you to remember when you're doing the  8 redistricting process that you keep communities of interest  9 in mind.</p> <p>10 We are very fortunate in Putnam County to have  11 excellent representation. I could not be happier with the  12 representation we have. However, in Putnam County we have  13 a dividing line that would be very simple if we used the  14 St. Johns River. I've talked to Senator King, I've talked  15 to Senator Smith about this. We don't mind having more of  16 you guys represent us, but we would like for you to use  17 boundaries that are easy for us to explain to the voters  18 and show them exactly who their Representatives are.</p> <p>19 I have one of our precinct maps, I want to take just a  20 second to show you how we are split now in Putnam County,  21 if I could get some help. If you'll look at this map just  22 briefly, the green line is Congressional Districts 3 and 6,  23 the blue line is Senate District 2 that goes right down the  24 middle of Putnam County. Senate 5 is on each side of that  25 line and 2 just splits Putnam County.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 funding for schools, the horse park, water policy, work  2 comp insurance, and beautiful Rodman Reservoir.  3 (Laughter.)</p> <p>4 I would like to think these issues are important to  5 those Representatives. Therefore, I would ask that during  6 the reapportionment process the Marion County delegation is  7 reduced and the number of Representatives will have more  8 accountability to the Marion County citizens. Ideally, our  9 delegation could be cut in half to no more than four  10 Representatives and two Senators. Then the voters in  11 Marion County would be very important to all who offer to  12 represent us. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>13 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 11.</p> <p>14 MS. MERRELL: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and  15 distinguished members of the committee. Let me first  16 explain myself to Senator King why I'm over in Marion  17 County instead of in Duval and Volusia where I reside. I'm  18 Linda Merrell and I live at 599 John Richardson over in  19 Ormond Beach but also am moving to Flagler, the fastest  20 growing county, and have some concerns. As you see, that  21 we are on the boundaries of Marion County. So to my  22 extended neighbors and family that I don't know yet, we're  23 coming closer and closer together as we increase in our  24 population and our district.  25 I'd like to point out a couple of things. At your</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 I'd like for you to consider when -- since District 2  2 runs through the city of Palatka, some of the city  3 residents are in, some are out, and this always creates a  4 problem for us. If you are campaigning in this area, some  5 of you are, you realize the problem that you would have  6 contacting your constituents. And this is very important  7 to us.</p> <p>8 I do appreciate your time and I thank you for allowing  9 me to be here.</p> <p>10 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 10.</p> <p>11 MR. CRAFT: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, greetings to  12 the committee, staff. Thank you for coming to Marion  13 County to listen to the citizens.</p> <p>14 My name is David Craft, I'm speaking as president of  15 the Marion County Builders Association that has 350 member  16 firms that employ over 2500 people. I will be speaking  17 concerning the State and House/Senate districts. Each year  18 I travel to Tallahassee with members of our association  19 during the session to meet with our Marion County  20 delegation. Although each of our Representatives and  21 Senators take the time to meet with us, often I feel that  22 to some it's a courtesy only and that our concerns are not  23 necessarily their concerns.</p> <p>24 Marion County has issues that other counties may not  25 have. Among these are smart growth management, including</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 first meeting in Tallahassee we passed out a fairness  2 statement document from the People's Advocacy Center in  3 Tallahassee, which I'm a part of. And Mr. Poole and  4 Mr. Lipsio both ran out of time, and they were referencing  5 the fairness document. And I think some of you have it,  6 but if I could provide this to staff for those of you that  7 were not in Tallahassee. Thank you, Mr. Guthrie, I  8 appreciate that very much.</p> <p>9 I just won't belabor it, but clearly, Mr. Chairman,  10 you have done everything to make the hearings much more  11 accessible. And we appreciate that and respect that  12 interest. But I think there are a couple of items that  13 were brought up in Jacksonville last night that I would  14 like to address.</p> <p>15 Clearly last night we heard and hear again from the  16 constituents that you must respect the communities of  17 interest and not subdivide those political communities like  18 cities and counties. And I think we're hearing that same  19 message of fairness.</p> <p>20 But last evening when Representative Cusack, who I'm  21 fortunately in her district as well, talked about adopting  22 standards and criteria, Mr. Chairman, the notion of  23 listening and gathering that information I think is very,  24 very noble first, and then perhaps to set the standards and  25 criteria, but there are some standards I think if you look</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 at this document and hear from the League of Women Voters  2 that you could in fact put out there guidelines to assure  3 the public that you are going to at least try to achieve  4 the highest of fairness that we know.  5 And, yes, I do believe fairness is the underlying  6 principle of which you are operating on. But I invite you  7 to look at those principles and consider them.  8 The second thing was the access to the maps that we  9 all are going to have access to if we are fortunate enough  10 to be on-line and have computers. But if you could  11 consider having those public hearings, for those that don't  12 have the privilege of working in Tallahassee as we do and  13 traveling the state, in at least some of the regions  14 because it seems like that would be the last chapter that  15 would then be unwritten for the public.  16 Because not everybody is going to be able to come up  17 and leave their jobs and travel there. Those of us that  18 work all over the state -- and, by the way, if you decide  19 to go to the beach to cool off, we're only two blocks from  20 the ocean, right on 40, it's a direct line. But I tell  21 you, the way to travel to St. Pete and Tampa is 40 because  22 it's the back road from east Volusia to get there.  23 But I do think it will be terribly difficult. We are  24 like all five New England states crammed into one state and  25 now we're the fastest growing state. Let's try to write</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 Republican party in this county.  2 When reapportionment came, Randy Mackey (phonetic) was  3 in charge of House reapportionment. He called me in and  4 said, I've got good news and bad news for you, George. The  5 good news is we like you and we don't think we can beat  6 you, so we're going to pack all the Republicans as best we  7 can into your seat and we're going to take Marion County  8 and spoke it off like a wheel with the rest of the counties  9 coming in. And that is how the Florida House was drawn.  10 I will say being the chairman for the last six to  11 eight years it's truly a fine line to walk. And I believe  12 that particularly for people like our Senators, both of our  13 senators, and our eight Representatives that we truly  14 appreciate what you-all have done for us when we call upon  15 you. And this county I think would still like to have a  16 number of you-all come into this seat but have a -- come  17 every now and then, but don't wear out your welcome. We  18 would like to have you-all attached to us, but at the same  19 time would like to have two Senators or two Representatives  20 that could be elected out of this district.  21 So I would ask that you look at this to draw where  22 there is the ability for Marion to elect two senators.  23 Representative Jennings, having said that, minority  24 access seats works very good, the communities of interest.  25 Between the black community in Marion and Alachua I think</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 the last chapter for redistricting in a very open process  2 by having regional meetings instead of imposing travel to  3 working people in the state of Florida.  4 Good luck, and I'm looking forward to seeing maybe my  5 Senate district expanding even more. Thank you very much.  6 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 12.  7 MR. ALBRIGHT: Did everybody have barbeque for lunch?  8 SENATOR WEBSTER: You're recognized for two minutes.  9 (Laughter.)  10 MR. ALBRIGHT: Thank you. I'm George Albright, I'm a  11 citizen of Marion County, the only one in here without an  12 agenda. (Laughter.)  13 I honestly miss all of you-all and I really mean that  14 with all my heart. I do not miss the special interests,  15 but I do miss the members.  16 Mr. Chairman, I kind of feel like there are some  17 things I should share. Some of it is partisan, but I was  18 there 12, 15 years ago and because of me some of what was  19 done to this county I think needs to be put on the record.  20 I ran in '86 against Mr. Mefford (phonetic), a very  21 popular, very nice, very good state Representative and got  22 47 percent of the vote in a 33 percent district. He  23 retired, I got 52 percent in a 37 percent district. As  24 you-all recall of course the Democratic party ran both  25 houses at that point and they saw the growth of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 are served very well and I would say I believe by keeping  2 that House seat intact. By the time you do that, you  3 basically have taken the black access seat, you've taken  4 what's left, there is not much room for anything other than  5 two House seats here.  6 Mr. Chairman, I also feel, to not be remiss, that it  7 is a partisan process. You were there, I was there.  8 You're too gentle to say it, I guess I'm not, but it's  9 always going to be a partisan process. I think with the  10 Voting Rights Act, with the minority access seats, to  11 continue with the census of the growing minority  12 populations in this state, once those Voting Rights Acts  13 are satisfied there is really not going to be that much  14 left to fight over. But a good amount of it will be from  15 basically Orlando through this corridor.  16 So I have to give you -- ask you to have great wisdom  17 in what you do. I also want to say that our Senate -- back  18 to the Senate side, we have nobody from Marion County. As  19 a result Ocala was basically cut like this and that's kind  20 of how it is now.  21 We would like to continue to have our great Senator  22 Anna Cowin involved. Isn't that what you told me to say  23 this morning? (Laughter.) We talked on the cell phone and  24 that's what she asked me to say.  25 We would like to have Marion and Lake very much kept</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 together so that those two counties can share the same  2 Senator. We have a lot of the same communities of  3 interest. The river systems run through here on the way to  4 beautiful Rodman Reservoir. And we very much would like to  5 have these two counties together.  6 Thank you very much. I can see I've worn out my  7 welcome. (Laughter.)  8 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 13.  9 MS. GRANT: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, ladies and  10 gentlemen. I'm Jean Grant. I'm an elderly citizen from  11 Citrus County, and I tell you I'm elderly in case you can't  12 see it.  13 As you are well aware, one of Florida's primary public  14 policy challenges is how best to meet the needs of the  15 growing senior population. This is especially important in  16 the Fifth Congressional District where we have a large  17 population of senior citizens. They are more spread out  18 then say South Florida, but it makes it an even greater  19 challenge just to service the needs.  20 As a member of the board of directors of the area  21 Agency on Aging, I know firsthand about this challenge.  22 Through our efforts and in coordination with our elected  23 Representatives, we've been able to service the large aging  24 community in Citrus, Alachua, Levy, Hernando, Marion and  25 Columbia Counties. All but one of these counties is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 century here for the business community.  2 Before I begin my quick presentation, a retired  3 businessman, Mr. Harold Goldforth, asked that I submit to  4 the record an editorial received in today's paper. And as  5 the good servant and leader that I am, I bring that to the  6 committee, and I'll present it right after my presentation.  7 On behalf of the chamber, we welcome you here to the  8 great area of Marion County, and I want to very quickly  9 talk about some of what's going on. We have a community  10 that's somewhat like an apple pie in north central Florida,  11 and there's no other way to describe it. It is found in  12 the heart of Florida, it's the apple of everyone's eye, I  13 think, north central Florida for economic reasons.  14 However, we're finding that the Marion County area is  15 being divided up and sliced into pieces. So our pie is  16 shared by many of our great delegates and Representatives.  17 And let me tell you this, and I reiterate what Commissioner  18 Harris said at the very beginning, we have some great  19 Representatives in Tallahassee and we value them, we work  20 with them and we think we are doing a lot of successful  21 things together.  22 But our little pie, Marion County, is being shared by  23 many of our Representatives. And we have a recommendation  24 regarding this pie that we have. Inasmuch as Marion County  25 has, and I think for the audience to understand, we have</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 currently represented by Congresswoman Karen Thurman.  2 This regional effort to provide services to seniors  3 has been greatly enhanced by the fact that all share the  4 same Congressional district. The senior population in this  5 region has benefitted from having one member of Congress  6 who is able to address all its needs across these six  7 counties. Congressman Thurman's seat on the Ways and Means  8 Committee, and her advocacy for health care for seniors has  9 helped us obtain critical resources for this effort.  10 Simply put, we would not be able to provide these services  11 were it not for the configuration of the Fifth  12 Congressional District.  13 Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the tens upon tens of  14 thousands of seniors in this district, and the people who  15 provide care and services for them, I ask that you preserve  16 our community of interest and preserve our district and do  17 not alter the district lines in any way that would force us  18 to diminish our commitment to the aging population. I  19 thank you, and left some copies.  20 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 14.  21 MR. MALONE: Good afternoon. I'm Mike Malone. I'm  22 with the Ocala-Marion County Chamber of Commerce here in  23 north central Florida. We represent about 1500 businesses  24 here in the area. We expect we are the second oldest  25 chamber in the state of Florida, operating well over a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 got four Senators and eight Representatives. We have  2 twelve Representatives in Tallahassee all carrying a little  3 piece of the pie of Marion with them. And we very much  4 appreciate the efforts they have had.  5 But we would like to see this recommendation -- as  6 part of the recommendation we would like to see a reduction  7 in the number of Representatives we have in Tallahassee.  8 And we say this not lightly but rather we want each of our  9 Representatives to have a larger portion of their  10 constituents to come from Marion County. No one serves  11 more than one master. And many of our great  12 Representatives we have have so many constituents in so  13 many different counties, they oftentimes say, how do we  14 react, they ask themselves, how do we react for our  15 constituents.  16 So if we could have more of our constituents in our  17 representatives' hands I think our Representatives would  18 feel a stronger relationship to the issues they must  19 confront. So the Chamber of Commerce recommends that to  20 you on behalf of the Marion County community, that we have  21 more constituents in our representatives' districts and  22 therefore that would cause a reduction in the number of  23 Representatives.  24 Furthermore, we would like to have a consideration in  25 Marion County to have its own state Senator. And we are</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 approaching that magical number. The numbers that were  2 presented at the onset of the presentation are the numbers  3 we have to work with. We all in the audience often feel  4 that we don't agree with all those numbers, but those are  5 the numbers we are dealing with. But we are approaching  6 that number that was so outlined.</p> <p>7 So in conclusion I simply want to expect -- to share  8 with you the feelings of the Marion County business  9 community that we can have a strong partnership with the  10 citizens and government, and that we will continue to be  11 the apple pie of north central Florida, but we want to  12 share a larger slice of our apple pie with our delegates  13 that we have.</p> <p>14 So on behalf of the business community, thank you,  15 welcome to Marion County, and we look forward to working  16 with you in this next session. And Marion County will  17 continue to bring its sausage to Marion County Days. And  18 we look forward to having everybody there for lunch this  19 year. Thank you.</p> <p>20 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 15.</p> <p>21 MR. RECTOR: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of  22 the committee. My name is Steve Rector and I'm chief  23 operating officer of North Florida Regional Medical Center  24 in Gainesville. Briner Robinson, our CEO, was  25 unfortunately called out of town on business and asked me</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 evaporate. Please do not radically alter the district,  2 particularly if it is just to meet some political  3 objective. This process is too important and nothing less  4 than our community is at stake. Thank you.</p> <p>5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 16.</p> <p>6 MS. CINO: Cynthia Cino, I live in Homosassa in Citrus  7 County. First of all, I'd like to thank you for coming.  8 It is a shame that this wasn't held in Citrus County. I'd  9 like to applaud the members of the audience that took time  10 from their schedules to come. I'm here to represent the  11 people that couldn't come. I'm here on behalf of the  12 frail, elderly in my county. I'm here for the blue-collar  13 worker, the person who fixes your car, and cuts your grass,  14 and bags your groceries. The time of this meeting was  15 inappropriate for those people to be able to attend this  16 meeting.</p> <p>17 As you can see, I brought my five-year-old  18 granddaughter with me. Her parents are working. Children  19 have no political party. And I heard a few people speak of  20 the truth of the matter and that is, to the victor goes the  21 spoils.</p> <p>22 I would hope that your panel does the right thing for  23 people who have no political party, like the children in my  24 district, my county, my town. Sixty-seven percent of the  25 children in the elementary school in Homosassa qualify for</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 to come here in his stead.</p> <p>2 Health care is the single largest industry in Alachua  3 County and it is vitally important to the success of  4 Alachua County and the area of Gainesville. We have worked  5 hand in glove with our elected Representatives to build the  6 kind of health care system the people of this region  7 deserve. Without the support from our Congress and from  8 our state and local governmental entities for these  9 efforts, we would be unable to satisfy the needs of our  10 citizens. For that reason we have a keen interest in how  11 we change the political borders of this state.</p> <p>12 The people of this region have greatly benefitted from  13 the current configuration of the Fifth Congressional  14 District. It is that district that sent Congresswoman  15 Karen Thurman to Washington to advocate on our behalf. Her  16 seat on the powerful Ways and Means Committee has helped  17 bring home much needed support and resources for our health  18 care system. And her advocacy has been integral to the  19 economy of Gainesville and Alachua County. We cannot  20 afford a beginner in Congress. We want Congresswoman  21 Thurman to be able to return to Washington and fight for  22 her district.</p> <p>23 And so my message is simple. If you chop us all up,  24 chop us up in a way that you separate us from our  25 legislators, much of the progress we have made will</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 free or reduced lunch. I hope when you set your criteria  2 and your standards that you take into account things other  3 than just numbers. Think about the people who don't vote  4 because they are too young to vote.</p> <p>5 On the way over I promised my granddaughter that she  6 would be able to see horses. You know what, she didn't see  7 one, not one. My parents moved me here in 1963 as a child  8 when there were 8,000 people in Citrus County. And I think  9 I can say I feel like a winner that we didn't make the top  10 five in growth.</p> <p>11 I would like to see Florida remain the way it should  12 be. I understand people come, this is America. My  13 grandparents immigrated here from other countries. My  14 parents, I should say. I'm first generation United States.  15 But the point is that too many people say that children are  16 our future. That's not true. We are their future.</p> <p>17 I'd like some rural areas in Citrus County and in  18 Marion County and all around us to remain. I want the  19 environment protected.</p> <p>20 And I'd like to see public comment allowed after the  21 plan is made. It's kind of hard to talk about something  22 that you don't know how it's going to happen.</p> <p>23 My parents and -- my dad was born in Ireland, my  24 mother was born in Denmark. They raised us to believe that  25 in America you can trust the government to do the right</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 thing. Please do the right thing for the children, for the  2 poor, for the working people, and the elderly. Thank you.  3 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 17.  4 MS. GILL: Good afternoon. I'm Number 17, my name is  5 Susan Gill, I'm the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections.  6 As supervisor of elections for Citrus County, I'd just like  7 to tell you what I hear our citizens say all the time and  8 that is that they would like one senatorial district for  9 Citrus County. I'm sure you're going to hear that several  10 times today. Although we have had good relationships with  11 both our Senators, from a political standpoint they would  12 like representation by one Senator as we have with our  13 Congressional and with our House of Representatives.  14 From a supervisor's standpoint I would just like to  15 say this, if you do have to split Citrus County in any way,  16 if you would please take into consideration some of our  17 very large subdivisions which have the potential of being  18 split down the middle because they do go by major highways  19 like Citrus Springs, Citrus Hills, Sugar Mill Woods. This  20 would be disastrous if they got divided.  21 So I thank you very much for your attention.  22 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 18.  23 MR. LOVE: My name is Sam Love. Where I stood in the  24 early '20s was a huge forest. I was a barefooted kid  25 herding range cattle and range hogs from my family farm.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 would think seriously about it. There has been a book  2 written by a lady who is not one of my favorite people and  3 I think it was "you have to have a village" or something  4 like that. Her husband is not one of my favorite people  5 either. (Laughter.)  6 Here's what we must have in Marion County. When I  7 left University of Florida and went to Tallahassee as a  8 lobbyist, and from there on to the U.S. House and Senate,  9 as I served in those capacities for a period of over 30  10 years, I spent less than two days in Tallahassee this year,  11 the least amount of time I have spent there most of my  12 adult life.  13 I understand those political systems very, very well.  14 And it is skewed and it needs to be fixed. There's two of  15 the worst case scenarios, and I stand right in the middle  16 of one of them, two -- well one now since the Court made a  17 ruling that the district ran from the west of Orlando to  18 Tallahassee or Jacksonville and to Palatka. What a  19 travesty, what a travesty.  20 We are sitting here today with 12 people claiming to  21 represent us. How can the guy on the Georgia line ever be  22 effective here? It just can't happen. And instead of  23 having 12 people that we look forward to dealing with and  24 we have a lot of confidence in, and I know most of you, but  25 what we need is a community. And the only way we are going</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 Right now as I look at this rather auspicious gathering I  2 sort of wish I was standing out there in that forest today.  3 However, the forest did give away to other things, not all  4 good.  5 I'm one of four generations of Sam Loves in this  6 county. And if my father and mother were here today and  7 think about how we started and how that when the city of  8 Ocala passed a law that livestock could not run at large in  9 the city without getting put in the pound, we put up with  10 that a while and then the County came in, they set up a  11 5-mile fence all around the city of Ocala. So we had to  12 keep moving, like the people out west, to new territory.  13 But we stayed in Marion County, and I'm glad of that.  14 Let me just say this. Congressman King and -- Senator  15 King -- Senator Smith, I know you can swim Paynes  16 Prairie -- Senator King and our friends from up over the  17 Georgia line, I don't blame you a bit if you never came to  18 Ocala. If you had to drive I-75 or if you had to drive  19 from Jacksonville -- I drove to Jacksonville last week. I  20 said, I hope I never have to come back to Jacksonville. I  21 wouldn't blame you a bit.  22 Senator Cowin, you know the back road from Lake and  23 Marion where the drunks and the people out driving might  24 see us. (Laughter.) So you can get here.  25 But here is the problem we have here, and I wish you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 to have it is when we get more people here to help  2 finish -- you know, stand off these alligators and snakes.  3 When you go back to redistricting --  4 SENATOR WEBSTER: Your four minutes is up. Wrap it  5 up.  6 MR. LOVE: Please give us more people in a closer  7 area. That's what we need, sir. Thank you.  8 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 19.  9 MR. SCHER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm  10 just delighted to be here. My name is Richard Scher. I'm  11 professor of political science at the University of Florida  12 and I not only have some very dear friends on this  13 committee and in the room but two of my former students are  14 on this committee as well which makes me extremely proud.  15 I'm very delighted with that.  16 I do some work, quite a bit of work on redistricting  17 and writing and research and have served as an expert  18 witness. And I really am here with two requests. I  19 submitted a document to you, and I'll leave some more  20 copies. So I'll just be very, very brief.  21 The two requests are, first of all, if at all  22 possible, in fact, I'd like to insist on it, keep Alachua  23 County in Congresswoman Thurman's district. And secondly,  24 keep Alachua County intact as you redraw the lines.  25 With respect to the first point, Alachua County has</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 really been tremendously benefitted, I think, by  2 Congresswoman Thurman. She's a tremendous advocate not  3 just for the University of Florida but really for all the  4 interest throughout her entire district. And I think you  5 can see from the electoral results that she's well regarded  6 by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike. And I  7 think I can speak for at least a majority that her future  8 district will include Alachua County.</p> <p>9 Secondly, with respect to keeping Alachua County  10 intact, let me particularly try to make a point based on  11 what the courts and scholars, and so forth, call political  12 fairness which is that the County not be chopped up or torn  13 apart for four reasons. And they're all based on legal  14 standards.</p> <p>15 First of all, respect for existing political  16 boundaries and jurisdictions. This is actually a very old  17 standard but it was rearticulated in 1995 in the case of  18 Miller versus Johnson that political boundaries should be  19 respected wherever possible. And counties are arguably the  20 preeminent political jurisdiction in Florida and wherever  21 possible those lines should be respected.</p> <p>22 Secondly, respect for communities of interest. At  23 least in the case of Alachua County, the University of  24 Florida is an engine, an enormous engine that has an  25 extraordinary impact on the economic and social life of not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 political process. Partisanship cannot be taken out of it  2 and I don't think it should be taken out of it. Yet as  3 everybody knows, there's a tendency for the majority party  4 to want to squeeze the minority party. But it's a  5 reasonable inference from the U.S. Supreme Court decision  6 in Davis v. Vanderban (phonetic), 1986, that one party  7 cannot simply gerrymander another out of existence.</p> <p>8 And in the 1980's redistricting --</p> <p>9 SENATOR WEBSTER: Your four minutes is up. Please  10 wrap up.</p> <p>11 MR. SCHER: There was a gentleman's agreement to  12 respect areas of strength and I would hope each of the  13 parties would recognize that and especially in Alachua  14 County. Thank you all very much and good afternoon.</p> <p>15 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 20.</p> <p>16 MS. BARDON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and  17 distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the committee. I  18 want to thank you for the opportunity to be here, although  19 I wish I had that opportunity in Gainesville. I understand  20 you have fewer meetings of this committee at this time than  21 you did ten years ago. I'm very proud that you have had  22 the opportunity to hear Professor Scher who represents the  23 interests so well of Alachua County and of the  24 Congressional district. So I'm really reiterating some of  25 the major points he made.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 just Alachua County but really surrounding areas as well.  2 It really forms the hub of the community of interest in  3 north central Florida. Again, in Miller versus Johnson,  4 the U.S. Supreme Court stated that wherever possible  5 communities of interest should be protected in redrawing  6 Congressional districts and I hope you'll give that some  7 consideration.</p> <p>8 Thirdly, narrowly tailor the district boundaries as  9 they are redrawn. This standard, of course, has been  10 implemented because of Miller versus Johnson and also Shaw  11 v. Reno with respect to racial issues. But it's also true  12 on the basis of redrawing lines for other reasons as well.  13 That is to say they should be narrowly tailored to do only  14 the minimum necessary to satisfy the requirements of equal  15 population, maintaining continuity and compactness,  16 respecting political boundaries, and protecting communities  17 of interest.</p> <p>18 In the past courts have held that citizens have a  19 right to expect some continuity in the nature of their  20 districts with respect to who they are associated with,  21 what areas they are next to and indeed joined with.  22 Wholesale change really for the sake of change or to  23 satisfy partisan pressures is not desirable.</p> <p>24 And finally, partisan fairness. I think we've all  25 recognized that redistricting is first, last, and always a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 I'm also here to speak on behalf of some important  2 women's groups in Alachua County, the League of Women  3 Voters and Women for Wise Growth. We are very concerned  4 about keeping the integrity of Alachua County, and of  5 course the Congressional district and the valuable impact  6 that Congresswoman Thurman has for us.</p> <p>7 Please don't split our county. And if possible try to  8 arrange to have your meetings when more people can attend.  9 These are not convenient times and I think there ought to  10 be more locations. Again, thank you for this opportunity.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 21.</p> <p>12 MR. FLOYD: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My  13 name is Chuck Floyd, and I am chairman of the Democratic  14 Executive Committee from Alachua County.</p> <p>15 Until today I wasn't sure many of you knew where  16 Alachua County was. But it is -- the county seat is  17 Gainesville, home of the University of Florida. And we  18 don't understand why we couldn't have a hearing there, but  19 I'm told by Senator Smith there may be some changes made.  20 There have been complaints made about the time this was  21 held because it is inconvenient for working people. And I  22 hope that you'll give that consideration next time.</p> <p>23 Many of the things that I was going to say have  24 already been said and I won't be redundant. I would have  25 to say Mr. Lipsio in the beginning gave you some</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 interesting points about Alachua County, I'm sure you have  2 a record that you can read that. Dr. Scher's points are  3 right on the mark so I need not say any more regarding  4 that.</p> <p>5 In terms of what I could say, Mr. Bardon pointed this  6 out, some years ago you had more hearings than this when  7 you had less population.</p> <p>8 And then what about the fact that you are having these  9 hearings before a plan is on the table? I don't understand  10 that. How is the public supposed to react to or comment on  11 a plan that does not exist? If this committee is serious  12 about input, what would -- hold hearings before and after  13 the majority's plan is introduced.</p> <p>14 And, finally, the same thing that so many other people  15 have said to you, Alachua County is an entity. We want it  16 kept together. And I hope that you will do that, and thank  17 you very much for your time.</p> <p>18 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 22.</p> <p>19 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I  20 thank you for coming to Marion County and letting us  21 participate in self-government outside the ballot box. I  22 am Dee Brown, the Supervisor of Elections for Marion  23 County, and I'm proud to have you here.</p> <p>24 I have been through reapportionment two previous  25 times, 1982 and 1992. And I'm really looking forward to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 tell the total story. The figures that we send to  2 Tallahassee do not tell the total story. I hope you will  3 allow my staff and I to work with you and have some input  4 and maybe let you know where some of our neighborhood  5 boundaries are and maybe we can work on this issue. I  6 think it would be beneficial to all of us.</p> <p>7 The other issue that I want to bring up is I hope  8 you-all will put in place some standards, some objective  9 standards that apply from the west border to Key West and  10 apply likewise across our state. And most assuredly then  11 we are all on fair and equitable grounds.</p> <p>12 And I think that these standards need to be published  13 and let the public know where they stand. Let the citizens  14 know what we are dealing with in Marion County. And I know  15 that you-all will be fair and equitable.</p> <p>16 Again, I thank you for your time, I thank you for the  17 input that you receive from officers such as myself, and I  18 look forward to working with you and your staff in the  19 future. Thank you for your time today.</p> <p>20 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 23.</p> <p>21 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.  22 My name is Kevin Cunningham and I'm a Realtor in Citrus  23 County. I'm here representing the Realtors Association of  24 Citrus County.</p> <p>25 Citrus County is a coastal county, one of four</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 reapportionment in 2002 because I know you're going to help  2 me out of some of my split precincts.</p> <p>3 I do have two concerns and one is our split precincts.  4 I hope that you will give great concern to not splitting  5 communities of common interest, whether it is a  6 subdivision, a town, a city, or a neighborhood.</p> <p>7 I have several areas in my county that my constituents  8 in this area will recognize as I mention them to you and  9 they will tell you these are not large communities, but  10 they are good people and neighbors need to be voting on the  11 same ballot; Kendrick, Cammer, Pedro, Anthony, Sparr,  12 Marion Oaks, Belleview and Dunnellon. They all have two  13 Representatives. This is a copy of the map from the town  14 of Anthony after the '92 reapportionment. Do you see the  15 different color coding? That's a split community. We also  16 have Ocklawaha, which is down by beautiful Lake Weir that  17 has two Senate districts.</p> <p>18 And then we have a beautiful area in the northwest  19 part of the county out Highway 27 that we know fondly as  20 Blichton Fellowship. It is Precinct 30 and this is what  21 Precinct 30 looks like. Precinct 30 has two Congressmen,  22 two Senators and two Representatives. So we are quite  23 split.</p> <p>24 I have worked with your staff, Mr. Guthrie, over the  25 years and I'm working with Jay O'Callahan. The maps do not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 counties that make up the community we call the Nature  2 Coast of Florida. Because of our shifting and growing  3 population, there is probably nothing more critical to the  4 future of this state than the reshaping of Florida's  5 political boundaries every ten years.</p> <p>6 There is an intricate dance that our legislators go  7 through. And it is usually carefully choreographed to  8 protect the party in power and its incumbents, no matter  9 what party that is. But in the process what is produced is  10 a system of self-interest, a system that is all too often  11 out of sync with the needs and concerns of the public.</p> <p>12 We believe strongly in an end to that past, where  13 partisanship and gerrymandering has categorized the  14 establishment of our legislative boundaries. What we need  15 today are legislators to agree that any redistricting plan  16 must first represent our communities of interest.</p> <p>17 Communities of interest are where certain communities  18 share certain concerns and characteristics much like our  19 Nature Coast. We believe it is in Florida's best interest  20 that these communities be placed in the same districts so  21 that we can enjoy and advertise to our lawmakers concerns  22 of mutual interest to our communities.</p> <p>23 I believe just about every voter in this room would  24 agree that our current system of redistricting is archaic  25 and all too often produces an unbalanced representation for</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 all Floridians. We would applaud any effort aimed at the  2 creation of districts free of partisan politics that  3 recognizes the coherent necessity for coherent districts  4 that truly reflects the electorate to be represented.  5 Thank you for your time.  6 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 24.  7 MR. MULLIGAN: Good afternoon, Chairman, and committee  8 members. My name is Jerry Mulligan and I'm here today as  9 the president of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.  10 I'm here on behalf of 820 business members of the Chamber  11 of Commerce. We appreciate the committee extending us the  12 opportunity to address the issues. I know you've heard  13 much of the same, but we're going to repeat it anyway.  14 In doing your work, the Chamber of Commerce asks that  15 when you redraw new Senate, House and Congressional lines  16 that you place the 120,000 residents of Citrus County in  17 the same districts. During the last reapportionment  18 process our county Senate district was divided. On the  19 east side of the county, voters were included in District  20 11 that was drawn around Lake County but includes portions  21 of Citrus, Marion, Sumpter and Seminole Counties.  22 On the west side of Citrus County we were included in  23 District 4, possibly the ugliest Senate district ever  24 created in the state of Florida. This district, as you  25 know, includes portions of 18 separate counties in Florida</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 and I live in The Villages in Sumter County. I'm retired  2 and for the last three years have lived in this beautiful  3 retirement village. I'm vice president of The Village Home  4 Owners' Association which has 7,000 members and represents  5 the interests of 28,000 residents in that community.  6 At present we vote for one state Representative, one  7 state Senator and we are in one U.S. Congressional  8 District. We encourage you not to divide our community and  9 to allow us to continue to function as a community of  10 interest. Thank you very much.  11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you very much. Number 26.  12 MR. FRANCES: Good afternoon. I'm Mike Frances, I'm  13 also from The Villages. I'm on the Lake County side. I'm  14 also a commissioner in the town of Lady Lake. I just want  15 to emphasize that we are happy, we don't have a lot of  16 problems with the way we are organized right now. And  17 because we are in three separate counties, we want to ask  18 you to let us stay exactly as we are. Just be aware that  19 we are in three counties, but there are 28,000 of us. We'd  20 like to remain with, as Don said before me, one state  21 Senator, one state Rep and one Congressman. Thanks very  22 much.  23 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 27.  24 MR. CHAMPION: Mr. Chairman, fellow members, my name  25 is James C. Champion. I live in Marion County. Thank you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 stretching from Citrus County all the way to the Atlantic  2 Ocean above Jacksonville.  3 Not to be disrespectful to either of our Senators, but  4 it is extremely difficult for them to remain in touch with  5 the important issues in our community. There is just too  6 much geography and too many conflicting needs for a Senator  7 to keep track of. There are some clear examples in the  8 district where our Senators have had way too much on their  9 plates and have been unable to think through local  10 priorities. While we have empathy for our elected  11 officials, we are disappointed in the process that creates  12 barriers to fair representation in Tallahassee.  13 The rural counties in Florida, and we still consider  14 ourselves one, are already at a disadvantage. When you  15 divide a smaller county into two or more Senate or House  16 districts, you further marginalize the input that the  17 voters in those counties have.  18 The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce asks that during  19 this year's reapportionment process that you respect county  20 line boundaries in the smaller counties in Florida. In our  21 view, it's the only way that we can show up on the radar  22 screen of our elected officials.  23 We thank you for your time.  24 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 25.  25 MR. BURGESS: Good afternoon. My name is Don Burgess</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 for the opportunity of appearing before you. I will not be  2 redundant in saying what has mostly been said before;  3 however, I have to do something of that nature.  4 We have 12 people here representing our county. It's  5 impossible. The road maps are used. Apparently they can't  6 read them or don't have road maps to get down here to see  7 what they are missing. So therefore let's throw that  8 system -- let's forget it. Let's talk and deal with  9 individual voters. Let's give us Marion County. Give us  10 our own state Senators and give us our own Representatives.  11 And we will show you, not only the state, but we will  12 show the country what we can do, not the mess we had in the  13 prior years. Thank you.  14 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 28.  15 MS. BEARD: Good afternoon. I'm Eddy Beard, I live  16 in Ocala, Marion County. I work in Gainesville, Alachua  17 County. I represent the American Federation of State,  18 County, and Municipal Employees, AFSCME.  19 I want to thank the committee for holding this  20 hearing, but I think by having this hearing in the middle  21 of the day it is kind of difficult for people that perhaps  22 need to be here and voice their opinions to be here. I'm  23 on vacation and I took vacation time to come when I  24 probably could have been in St. Pete with my grandchildren.  25 Nevertheless, I'm happy to be here.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 I would ask that in the future you do everything in  2 your power to make sure that this is an open and accessible  3 process and that you make all information easily available  4 to the public no matter where they live. And putting  5 information on the web site is an excellent idea.  6 As far as redistricting in this area I think it's  7 important to see your communities of interest grouped  8 together. And the Fifth Congressional District, I think  9 the current makeup of this district succeeds in keeping  10 these communities together, and I would ask that you not  11 alter it.  12 I have heard of plans to alter this district by  13 cutting up the northern parts of the district and  14 substituting southern ones. I do not believe that this  15 would serve the interests of the citizens of the Fifth  16 District. As currently drawn, the communities are very  17 similar and can be best represented by being kept together.  18 Thank you for the chance to speak here today. And as  19 someone before me said, if it's not broke, don't fix it.  20 Thank you.  21 SENATOR WEBSTER: We're back to number one.  22 MR. MAUTNER: We did a trade-off. My name is Howard  23 Mautner. My wife and myself are mobile home owners living  24 in Northeast Ocala in the districts of Senator Jim King  25 over here and Representative Dennis Baxley who we saw</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 come here or for us to go there, we're talking about 140,  2 150 miles.  3 So we realize that you have -- the reapportionment  4 goes according to the population. And we've also heard a  5 lot of words here today that didn't necessarily apply to  6 reapportionment and redistricting. But nevertheless I know  7 that, as I say, the more access that constituents have to  8 their Representatives, and vice versa, the better.  9 And I know coming back to those districts that I  10 mentioned a little bit earlier, that Senate District No. 4,  11 Senator Mitchell, he has 18 counties. So that means for  12 constituents to call him in his own office, in his district  13 office, 17 of the 18 have to pay long-distance. Seventeen  14 of the 18 have to pay long-distance. We're talking 15, 20,  15 25 cents a minute or more.  16 And in House District No. 10, Representative Kendrick,  17 ten counties. So nine of the ten counties have to call  18 long-distance. I know some legislators had put in 800  19 numbers. Senator King is one of them. He's had one for a  20 long time. It makes them much more accessible and it is  21 good.  22 But I'll close my remarks. More concise districts,  23 more compact districts, more access to the legislators and  24 more ability for the legislators to have access to their  25 constituents. Thank you very much.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 earlier but -- there he is right in front of us. Good,  2 fine. We are very ably represented by these two. We are  3 also well represented by the other ten members of the  4 Marion County state legislative delegation.  5 But I will agree with the Chamber of Commerce director  6 Mike Malone when saying that Marion County and probably  7 many other counties would be better represented if they had  8 fewer Representatives and those Representatives would mean  9 more to that larger number of constituents.  10 I'm the 29th speaker and we're talking about the  11 legislative districts, and I only heard the word "compact"  12 used once this afternoon. I think I'm two out of 29 in  13 voicing the call for the districts to be more compact. And  14 that's well illustrated by Senate District No. 4, Senator  15 Mitchell's, which starts up at the Georgia line, goes down  16 to, all the way down to Citrus County. I know it's over  17 200 miles long. Senator Mitchell lives in Jasper, which is  18 a few miles below the Georgia line. So in order for him to  19 be in contact with his constituents in this area or for us  20 to go up there and see him, we're talking about 150,  21 175 miles.  22 To a lesser extent the same thing is true in House  23 District No. 10, Representative Kendrick. I believe he  24 lives in Carabelle, comes into Marion County, southwestern  25 Marion County. The distance there for contact for him to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 30.  2 MS. TAYLOR: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and members  3 of the redistricting committee. My name is Bonnie Taylor,  4 I live in Crystal River, which is part of Citrus County.  5 Historically Citrus County has been known as a rural  6 county. However, we're rapidly becoming non-rural with the  7 opening of the Suncoast Parkway. As such, we have issues  8 that are very indigenous to our area, matters of growth  9 that have to be addressed. And I think they could better  10 be addressed if we had one Senator representing us in our  11 area. We also want to keep our Representatives.  12 And if it is not possible that you make Citrus County  13 one district, I'd like to ask that you really look strongly  14 at not breaking up our subdivisions. We have some  15 extremely large subdivisions in our county, Sugar Mill  16 Woods, Citrus Hills, that I think if you break those into  17 different areas or different districts it would really  18 break up the community. And I don't believe that would be  19 in the best interests of the citizens.  20 Thank you very much.  21 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 31.  22 MS. HILL: Good afternoon. I'm Beverly Hill, I'm the  23 supervisor of elections in Alachua County. And I want to  24 thank you for allowing me to speak today. I'd like to  25 speak for the voters of Alachua County.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 And I think the theme today has become apparent to  2 you, I'm sure it has. We'd like to make it understandable  3 to the voters when they go to the polls so they understand  4 who is going to be on their ballot and why the districts  5 are formed the way they are. We had quite a bit of  6 confusion over the last ten years. And make it simple and  7 use guidelines and streets and roads that are  8 understandable and don't split subdivisions.  9 I'd also like to ask you not to split small  10 municipalities. We have eight municipalities plus  11 Gainesville in Alachua County. And right now the small  12 municipalities are split into several districts each. I'd  13 also like you as a, for selfish reasons to follow my  14 precinct lines when you make your districts. It would make  15 it a lot easier for us.  16 And the other thing I want to ask you to do is to do  17 it early, get it over with. It will take us -- we will  18 have more time to explain it, it will be more apparent who  19 the candidates are, where they are going to be from. I  20 know that you can't do much about the lawsuits, but if you  21 get it done early, then they start earlier and we get to  22 the courts earlier. I remember 1992 and how hard that was.  23 I just want to show you something that we had in  24 Alachua County. This has been taken care of, but this is a  25 mobile home community on the north side of Gainesville, and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 Congressional District No. 6 eastward and allow  2 Congresswoman Thurman's Congressional District 5 to be  3 moved eastward into Marion County because they have both  4 done an excellent job.  5 As far as our state Senate district, I want to thank  6 all of our state Senators. I realize how far, how  7 difficult it is. So may I suggest that possibly with the  8 203,000 that you suggested that we have for the census, I  9 think if we talk to the Chamber we might say there may be  10 more, but the fact of the matter is if we have 203,000, I  11 think two Senators can serve just as well as four. In  12 fact, I think they can serve us much better. So please  13 keep that in mind.  14 As far as Representatives, we have eight  15 Representatives. And I think that with 203,000 and 133,000  16 per Representative that possibly we also could compact that  17 as Mr. Mautner said and maybe possibly look at four. It is  18 very, very difficult to get our message to Tallahassee,  19 although each and every one of you are very nice and  20 listen. We do have Representative Baxley and he has been  21 very good.  22 But, remember, education is important, it is one of  23 your most important jobs, and as far as I'm concerned it's  24 my most important job. We have 39,000 students here and I  25 speak for them. You need to hear our voice in Marion</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 this is how Congressional 3 was split in this community.  2 These are all little lots lined up here, all little lots  3 here. And the ones next to each other in the mobile home  4 community lot were in different Congressional districts.  5 The hard thing for us was this was all one address on  6 Northwest 39th Avenue. They didn't have separate  7 addresses. So this is how that was done. So I ask you not  8 to do something like this again. When we are talking about  9 communities of interest, surely this community was of one  10 interest and should have been kept in the same district.  11 Thank you very much.  12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 32.  13 MS. APPLEQUIST: Good afternoon. My name is Cheryl  14 Applequist and I am currently sitting on the school board  15 in Marion County. I want to make it clear that I'm  16 speaking as an individual and not as a board member since  17 we have not discussed this.  18 You asked for suggestions. Well after 20 years of  19 working with the Legislature in this state, and I thank you  20 very much for that, I have suggestions for you. First of  21 all, the Congressional area, Congressman Stearns (phonetic)  22 and Congresswoman Thurman have been very important to  23 education here in Marion County. So I would suggest that  24 when you are drawing the lines then possibly you would  25 think east and possibly move Congressman Stearns'</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 County and it would be much easier if we could have four or  2 thereabouts rather than the eight Representatives; although  3 I appreciate everything that you have done. And I thank  4 you for your time.  5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 33.  6 MR. GAEKWAD: Good afternoon, Chairman, and board  7 members, especially state Representative Dennis Baxley. I  8 have a few points. Your number is 33, there is nothing  9 much to be said, it is all repeating.  10 As education-wise, I have a master's in political  11 science and I want to request a few things, you know.  12 First of all, I would say really loud and clear, it's very  13 unfair and unjust to the citizens of Marion County to have  14 only one state Representative. And not one state Senator  15 have a Marion County address, which is very unusual for a  16 200,000-plus population. And I hope, Mr. Chairman, you  17 would consider this. This is -- I think you'll hear today,  18 all day, this is a loud concern we all have.  19 Second thing I have suggestion, if you go as a general  20 citizen, they all understand where the county line is. It  21 is very difficult to understand even for a non-Congressman  22 or a sitting congressman to understand the district. To  23 divide Florida state into such a jigsaw puzzle, it is  24 difficult for even a chairman to go and put it back  25 together.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1        So why not we keep the county as a county and start  2        working backward rather than the puzzle is already there  3        and making it more puzzeful (sic).  4        If we have counties, people understand better, people  5        know who their Representative is. And for even the  6        Representative, you can ask our Representative he will tell  7        you, it is really easy to concentrate and to personal touch  8        with the people, understand the problems of the county.  9        And it will be a lot less difficult for people to go and  10       talk about their problems with their own state  11       Representatives and Senators also.  12       I think when I look at how the districts are divided  13       sometimes I smell, you know, some kind of racism or  14       religion or some kind of special interest has been put up  15       years back, not today. I'm not saying it's been done a few  16       years back, it's been a long time back. And I think it's  17       time, we are in a millennium, let's change it. What was  18       done previously, we don't have to take it. Let's go with  19       the new ideas and new hope. And we are in a great country,  20       great nation. And I think you guys can do it and I have  21       faith in all of you. Thank you very much for your time.  22       SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 34.  23       MR. JENKENS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,  24       Mr. Chairman, committee members. I'm Number 34, my name is  25       Whitfield Jenkins. I'm the current vice president of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1       but he has a great, courageous, proud history for all of  2       Florida. He and his wife both gave up their lives for this  3       political process which you are dealing with here today.  4       And here in Marion County we have a young 37-year-old  5       minister, Reverend Frank Pinkston, who is in the Hall of  6       Fame of civil rights doing the same type of work.  7       So what I would ask you-all today is to kind of bring  8       the spirit of what has taken place in the last 30, 40 years  9       to get us to where we are at today and know that we still  10      have issues that we need to address today.  11      I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear  12      before this distinguished committee. I'm glad that you're  13      here in Ocala and Marion County.  14      SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 35.  15      MR. STEVENSON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I  16      am L.C. Stevenson, president of our local branch of the  17      NAACP, Marion County. I reside at 333 Northwest 46th  18      Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34482.  19      Mr. President, and members of the Florida  20      redistricting and reapportionment committee, the NAACP is  21      pleased to appear before the committee today to give input  22      on this important process of democracy which allows  23      citizens of the state of Florida and Ocala/Marion County to  24      petition our government for fair representation in the  25      process which governs our lives.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1       Florida State Council for the National Association for the  2       Advancement of Colored People. I reside at 2200 Northwest  3       24th Road, Ocala, Florida 33475.  4       I have a prepared statement for you. I can guarantee  5       you that it has all the legal concepts of what is being  6       presented to you today. I don't want to read it now  7       because most of what I have heard are contents of that. If  8       you would promise me that you would make sure that it's  9       available for the record if we have to come back before you  10      again, I won't read it.  11      But what I would like to do, since my local president  12      is going to come after me, is basically to make real this  13      general terminology that I've been hearing, community of  14      interest, what does that mean, particularly as it relates  15      to the African-American community. Also, communities of  16      common interest, what does that mean as it relates to the  17      African-American community. And more importantly, fair  18      representation.  19      Because what we have in our community, I have to think  20      about 30, 40 years ago where African-Americans was in this  21      process and what we have challenging us today. That is the  22      interest that we have today, that this committee will do  23      the right thing as it relates to fair representation.  24      I would certainly bring up the name of Harry Tyson  25      Moore. I don't know how many of you know of his history,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1       The NAACP requests that you permit it to continue, the  2       work for which Harry Tyson Moore and countless others died  3       for, which is provide an opportunity for fair  4       representation of African-American interests in their  5       representative government.  6       During the 1990 reapportionment process, the NAACP was  7       instrumental in influencing the Florida Legislature to draw  8       a number of majority/minority and minority-influenced  9       districts. As the result of this accomplishment,  10      African-Americans and other minorities were better able to  11      express their community interest.  12      The NAACP respectfully requests the state commit  13      recommendations for the 2001 legislative districts to at  14      least existing minority districts, where possible drawing  15      additional ones. Since the committee is here in Ocala,  16      Marion County, I'll provide the local historical existence  17      of conditions related to the importance of the state  18      committee decisions.  19      Although African-Americans comprise approximately  20      13 percent of Marion County and 24 percent of the city of  21      Ocala population, African-Americans have not been elected  22      to the Marion County commission or school board since  23      Reconstruction. The primary reason for this continued  24      result is that white voters tend to vote against candidates  25      who minorities votes should.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 On behalf of the Marion County branch NAACP members  2 and supporters, I want to thank the Florida redistricting  3 and reapportionment committee for the opportunity to appear  4 and read into the record the expectations, dreams,  5 aspirations of our people for full and fair representation  6 in Florida government for the people and by the people.  7 Thank you very much, and I have a copy I will pass to you.  8 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 36.  9 MS. MACLEISH WHITE: Good afternoon to you all. My  10 name is Odetta MacLeish White and I'm the first vice  11 president of the League of Women Voters of Alachua  12 County/Gainesville. The League of Women Voters has a long  13 and distinguished history of voter education and activism  14 so I'm very proud to stand before you today as its  15 representative.  16 The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a  17 fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.  18 Further, the League believes that the Congressional  19 districts and government and legislative bodies should be  20 apportioned substantially on population and in a manner  21 that does not dilute the effective representation of  22 minority citizens.  23 In the upcoming reapportionment process the League of  24 Women Voters of Alachua County/Gainesville would like to  25 see the creation of compact, single-member districts, equal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 it's halfway between Fairfield and Buzzard's Roost.  2 (Laughter.) I also have served for the past 38 years as  3 the attorney for the Reddick Town Council and in all  4 modesty I can say that I am the best qualified to serve in  5 that capacity because I am the only attorney within the  6 town of Reddick.  7 I also am here today, being 79 years old, still  8 working and still poor so I represent those three segments  9 of the society as well. (Laughter.)  10 Ten years ago I had the privilege of appearing before  11 a similar committee on reapportionment. And I, together  12 with all of the rest of the Representatives from Marion  13 County, had one plead, and that was, We pray you do not  14 chop up Marion County. We knew that we had good  15 representation on the committee of reapportionment because  16 Senator, state Senator Karen Thurman served there, and she  17 of course represented Marion County. And we knew that we  18 were in good hands.  19 So they reapportioned Marion County so that we had  20 three Congressional districts; 3, 5 and 6, the Town of  21 Reddick falling in District No. 3, until the federal courts  22 changed that. And of course you know the other four state  23 Senate districts and the eight state House districts.  24 So I'm here today in those capacities that I mentioned  25 aforesaid to plead with you, Please do not chop up Marion</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 in population that take into account local characteristics  2 such as political and geographical boundaries whenever  3 possible.  4 We believe that such districts create a citizen's  5 feeling of connection to and influence over their  6 legislators who would be better able to understand the  7 unique communities that they represent. People vote when  8 they feel their voices will be heard by someone who knows  9 their issues and will be more directly accountable to them.  10 The League of Women Voters of Florida supports people  11 over politics, a drive to amend the Florida Constitution by  12 providing for an independent commission to redraw districts  13 every ten years and mandates that districts be compact,  14 contiguous and honor county and municipal boundaries to the  15 extent possible.  16 There is no denying the extremely self-protective and  17 partisan nature of the process on which you are about to  18 embark. Therefore, we call on you to keep the best  19 interests of your constituents always before you and I  20 thank you for this opportunity to address you.  21 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thirty-seven.  22 MR. KLEIN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, my  23 name is Harvey Klein. I have the honor of serving as  24 president of the Reddick Town Council. And for those of  25 you from South Florida who don't know where Reddick is,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 County as you did in the past. And let us have more  2 representation that are closer to home, despite the fact  3 that we love every single one of our eight Representatives  4 and Senators that presently represent us.  5 Thank you so much for the honor of being here.  6 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 38.  7 MR. O'NETT: Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate, the  8 House, my name is George O'Nett, and I have had just a  9 little experience with the Legislature. I see Jim Scott  10 sitting back there. Haven't seen him in years.  11 I started out politically back in 1955 with Senator  12 Joe Eaton when Dade County had two Senators. I moved to  13 Marion County after 1957 with Farris Bryant. We figured  14 the House had been decided, he invited me up to Marion  15 County. And we have 37,000 people here. Guess what? We  16 had our own Senator and we had two Representatives. And  17 L.K. Edwards was our Senator and he was responsible for the  18 placing of I-95.  19 Farris Bryant became Governor. We know he did so much  20 for the state of Florida it was unbelievable. And we have  21 had Senator Bill O'Neill, Bill Chapman, Congressman, old E.  22 C. Ralph from Sumpter County. Everybody contributed to the  23 state of Florida.  24 Now you're sitting here in this building, the Webber  25 Building. Do you-all know anything about it? Charlotte</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 Webber donated the money for this. Charlotte Webber has  2 had a farm since 1967 here in Marion County and she is the  3 richest woman in the United States. She controls a little  4 company called Campbell Soup.</p> <p>5 Do you realize that Marion County has five  6 billionaires living in Marion County; Frank Strata, Magna  7 Corp; makes all the parts for General Motors automobiles;  8 B.G. Pundley (phonetic) just moved from Tennessee, fine  9 gentleman. He makes all the rubber parts for the auto  10 industry. We have George Steinbrenner, New York Yankees.</p> <p>11 Marion County is important. But what's more important  12 is to have -- or maybe fortunate to have Representative  13 Baxley, but he may need some help. So in your  14 consideration of reapportionment, and I know what happened  15 with the gerrymandering and the Congressional seats and  16 everything in the last Legislature, but give us a break.  17 Think about Marion County. We have one president, one  18 Legislature. So think about it and think what we deserve.</p> <p>19 And what happens if one of our resident billionaires  20 decided he wanted to build a plant. Do they have to go to  21 Suwannee County to talk to our state Senator? Or  22 Jacksonville, I wouldn't mind talking to Senator King. But  23 think about it a little bit, because Senator King knows  24 what he's doing. What I'd like for you-all to do is just  25 think about it and let's do something with an abundance of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 gerrymandered, in my opinion. But it's not shared by all.  2 And I do see District 25, a very important district to  3 myself, having run this office and District 24. I will not  4 go further into this at this time.</p> <p>5 But I want to tell you that I appreciate every one of  6 you showing up today to see how easily identifiable the  7 legislative lines and how important they are to the  8 citizens of Florida. Thank you.</p> <p>9 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 40.</p> <p>10 MS. WIENKE: Hello, I'm just a Senior -- a citizen of  11 Marion County. I represent nobody but myself.</p> <p>12 But I do feel that this meeting should not be  13 conducted as a political meeting for one person and to have  14 a redistrict in Marion County just to serve one person.  15 And I am in a precinct, Karen Thurman, if you're wondering  16 who I'm talking about. I feel that I'm not represented  17 because I am in Precinct 43 in Dunnellon, I have no  18 representation, nobody lives in my district. Mr. Smith is  19 my representor, Representative. He probably doesn't even  20 know where I live, probably doesn't even know what the  21 problems of our district are.</p> <p>22 And I feel that we should have a compact district and  23 I feel that my vote should count, whether I am in a small,  24 rural community or whether I live in Ocala. I don't feel  25 that I'm represented. Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 fairness. You have all heard that term before.  2 And I thank you very much.</p> <p>3 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 39.</p> <p>4 MR. HARSHMAN: Hello, good afternoon. I'm Dana  5 Harshman. I've been a citizen of Marion County for 31  6 years. I'm a former candidate for state Representative in  7 Ocala in 1990. I'm also honored and happy to be a  8 pharmacist in the state of Florida for nearly 20-some  9 years.</p> <p>10 I've watched the issues in the state of Florida very  11 closely. I've had a lot of input from the citizens of  12 Florida and I would like to state to you that this is a  13 very serious citizen issue facing us here today. It's  14 probably one of the more serious issues in the fact that  15 ten years from now we'll have the same legislative lines.</p> <p>16 How do you get these district lines represented? How  17 do you get them to be represented? How do you get them to  18 be right? We the people are the citizens of the Florida  19 that decide how these lines will be written. That's why we  20 propose referendums to get a citizen's panel in regards to  21 this matter. Therefore, the citizens of Florida will be  22 the ones to decide their own representation.</p> <p>23 This process has everything to do with elective,  24 elective representation. I have the maps in front of me,  25 which you do too, which show that Ocala has been</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 41.</p> <p>2 MR. BROWNING: Thank you for having us all here. We  3 really appreciate you folks taking this time to hear from  4 the people. My name is Don Browning and I live in Marion  5 County. And I just have a great big thank you to this  6 entire delegation for the job that you-all did. We hear  7 some of the problems, but you-all did such a great job for  8 the wildlife that we have here in Marion County.</p> <p>9 And Senator Cowin and Representative Baxley both  10 introduced bills and got a unanimous vote from this body  11 and the County commissioners, we had the unanimous vote  12 there, unanimous vote throughout in the Senate and in the  13 House and the Governor has signed the bill. And the reason  14 this is so important is for the wildlife, but I think I've  15 heard so much about -- we do need to keep communities  16 together, but if you can follow this line of thought there  17 is something about a regional concept when it comes to  18 representation. And what that amounts to is clout on a  19 state or on a regional level.</p> <p>20 In this case what we had was Senator Cowin doesn't  21 have offices in every county within her district, but she  22 really makes her presence known when there is a problem say  23 in Marion County. She's up here and getting the job done.</p> <p>24 Representative Baxley, he's out of his district, you  25 know, if you want to be technical. However, he's so</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 passionate about the wildlife that it didn't really manner.  2 Nancy Argenziano, she's all the way over on the side, on  3 the west part of the state, but that influence was just  4 enormous. Senator King was so helpful. Ed Jennings was  5 helpful.  6 If you have an issue, these people actually do address  7 it, even though it's out of their area, their exact  8 district. I don't know exactly what that means other than  9 it's effective. And it's kind of neat having that sort of  10 power. So if we can sort of blend that all together when  11 you guys do your work, blend that in because we do need  12 clout, we really do need it.  13 And I agree we've got to keep communities together.  14 Some communities spring up right on county lines. They  15 spring up on both sides of the river and that type of  16 thing. So just blend that all in.  17 And, again, thank you ever so much for sticking with  18 that program of -- it's only about 50 nests, but it's a  19 50-year-old colony that we're close to losing it, but with  20 your effort and the Governor signing it I believe it is  21 going to be successful and come back. So thanks very much.  22 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 42.  23 MR. WALSH: Mr. Chairman, fellow members of the  24 committee, I'd just like to speak as a younger person here  25 for Marion County. I am Chris Walsh, I'm president of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 time, we get diminished and diluted as far as the  2 importance of our district.  3 I would just like to encourage this committee to  4 please consider that as much as possible and try to include  5 us in on the rest of Marion County because that's where our  6 common interest lies. Thank you.  7 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 43.  8 MS. HAINES: Good afternoon. Susan Haines, I'm  9 chairman of the Levy County Democratic Committee. I offer  10 the apologies of our Board of County Commissioners and our  11 Clerk. They wanted to come here, we had an extended  12 meeting today, and I broke a few laws to get here.  13 It's been stressed over and over again that Levy  14 County is a rural area. We're represented by some fine  15 Representatives, Congresswoman Karen Thurman, Senator Rod  16 Smith, Representative Will Kendrick are visible and viable,  17 active in our area.  18 I'm going to reassert what I've heard since I've been  19 here this afternoon, don't divide our county. It makes it  20 difficult. I know personally of an instance where through  21 an absentee ballot the wrong person was voted for because  22 they were on the wrong side of the line. But errors like  23 that happen. It does need to be readdressed. It  24 diminishes the quality of our representation.  25 Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 Young Republicans Club of Marion County.  2 Ten years ago I wasn't here, but what was done ten  3 years ago affects the way the districts are drawn up today.  4 And I realize what is going on here is a very important  5 function and I just wish that more young people were aware  6 of the importance of what's being done today.  7 I'd like to speak, being that I come from western  8 Marion County, it seems to be that one section of Marion  9 that somehow got locked into all these different various  10 districts, whether it be District 4, the state Senate  11 district, or District 10, the state House district. And we  12 have had expressed today that we don't do anything like  13 gerrymandering or something like that, but at the same  14 time, if something was done ten years ago that  15 gerrymandered some districts I think it's the obligation of  16 this committee to try to undo that and make things right.  17 We try not to be partisan in this, obviously there is  18 some partisan degree involved in this. But at the same  19 time I don't think that means we can't do what's right and  20 I think we need to do what's right. We're in western  21 Marion County, but in all respects we have everything in  22 common with the rest of the people in Marion County. Yet  23 for some reason we're locked into some districts that  24 affect nine different counties for 18 different counties  25 and it just seems like when it gets around to election</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 44.  2 MR. CASEY: Thank you very much, Chairmen, and thank  3 you for coming to Marion County, kingdom of the sun.  4 I am Bob Casey, and I was privileged to represent  5 Alachua and Marion Counties from 1992 to 2000. And when I  6 first got to Tallahassee the first thing I did was I  7 thanked Representative Peter Rudy Wallace and  8 Representative Dan Webster because they drew the boundaries  9 that united Alachua and Marion Counties, and that led to my  10 election. So I'm eternally grateful to them and I'll be  11 eternally grateful to you for whatever you do.  12 I want to say that one reason I wanted to speak, I  13 hadn't planned to, but there were a lot of Democrats from  14 Gainesville that spoke and not nary a Republican and so I'm  15 kind of disappointed in that. I ain't nothing but an old  16 redneck Republican from Alachua County. I'm an old pork  17 chopper, I'm almost a vegetarian now.  18 But back in the good old days, Senator Smith, when  19 Senator Kirkpatrick and Representative and Speaker John  20 Mills, and Mr. Jennings, Sid Martin, when they ruled the  21 roost, they divided Alachua County up like it ought to be.  22 441 runs down the middle of Alachua County roughly and so  23 we had one Senator. And John Mills had the western part of  24 Alachua County and Sid Martin had the eastern. So I hope  25 you'll keep that in mind.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 I think that in terms of sister counties we are a  2 community that identifies with Marion County, and Marion  3 County with Alachua County. And that's been good that  4 we've had that kind of representation.  5 You know, they speak about wanting an appointed  6 committee to do it. Well, by golly, we have got to change  7 the Florida Constitution to do that, and I'll fight that  8 every step of the way. You are our elected  9 representatives, and you are the ones to do the  10 redistricting and we're going to thank you for it. Some of  11 us are going to blame. We're going to say it's too many or  12 this, that or the other. But it's your responsibility and  13 duty and I know you'll carry it out well, just as you did  14 in dealing with the election phenomenon of this last year,  15 2000. I thank each of you for your work on that and  16 Senator Smith did a great job, and I appreciate a lot of  17 the comments that he made on committee.  18 So I hope, Representative Byrd, and Senator Webster,  19 that you-all make a trip to Gainesville. I hope you'll put  20 that on your agenda and maybe you could do it at night.  21 Let me tell you, back in 1880 the Republican Party of  22 Florida had their state meeting in Gainesville. And at  23 that time there were 33 counties in Florida. We didn't  24 win, we had a good candidate, but we didn't win. But  25 Alachua County was one of the six counties that went</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 County likes it just like it is, and Citrus County wants  2 their own Senator. The only thing I can predict is not  3 everybody is going to end up happy out of this process.  4 But what I can say is that I think all of us left here  5 with a couple of messages and that is for us to try as much  6 as possible to respect natural boundaries, respect  7 geography, respect community of interest, respect the  8 history of your particular counties. And I can tell you  9 that I know that the Chairman has made it clear that those  10 are the kinds of conversations that we're going to have as  11 this bears on.  12 I also would like to invite all of you, especially  13 from Marion County and Citrus County, to contact our  14 respective offices, mine particularly, and let us know what  15 you have in mind as to where you really believe the Senate  16 lines ought to be drawn. There is a fine line between what  17 is too much representation; that is, too many people, and  18 what is not enough representation. Because there are  19 actually some counties we go to where people say, We want  20 someone else, we only have one person and that really isn't  21 enough for all the committees. And I know that all of us  22 from both parties are trying to strike that balance.  23 It's been a great pleasure for me to be here today. I  24 appreciate hearing from all of you. I appreciate the  25 comments that all of you have made. And just two little</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 Republican. So maybe we can do it again.  2 So we hope that you-all will make it up to Gainesville  3 and give us some consideration. And, again, thanks for  4 coming down today.  5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Okay, if there are  6 questions of the members to anyone that has testified we  7 would allow those now. Do you have questions of those who  8 testified?  9 (No response.)  10 SENATOR WEBSTER: Okay. As we've done in the two  11 previous hearings -- as we've done at the two previous  12 hearings we're going to hear from the delegation members  13 first. And if they would like to make comments to their  14 citizenry that are here, we'll allow that. We can start  15 with -- Senator King left, right? Senator Smith, if you'd  16 like to make some comments.  17 REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  18 want to extend my gratitude to all those that traveled  19 here, given up work time, given up pleasure time. Somebody  20 gave up vacation time to be here and participate in this  21 process.  22 As the Chairman has made clear, this process now is to  23 hear from you, and that's what we've been doing today. And  24 what I think we've heard is that Alachua County wants to  25 stay as it is, Marion County wants to be different, Levy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 additions; number one, the lady from Dunnellon, I don't  2 know where Dunnellon is, but it is not in my district. I  3 checked my map closely to make sure I hadn't missed a whole  4 town. And I've made Reddick, so I knew I was okay there.  5 And the last thing is is that as much as,  6 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to extend our appreciation to you  7 for bringing a meeting back to Gainesville, I hope that  8 that is in fact with all due respect not the beginning of a  9 Republican revolution. And thank you so much for your time  10 and attention.  11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Baker.  12 REPRESENTATIVE BAKER: I'm Representative Baker. I'm  13 one of those Representatives that has a small portion of  14 Marion County. All I can say is I do live in Lake County,  15 I have done my best to listen to the concerns in Marion  16 County. And I don't know how redistricting is going to  17 play out. I don't know if I'll be a part of Marion County  18 again or not. I can only tell you that I'll do my best to  19 listen and represent you as well as possible. And I  20 appreciate everybody coming out and I thank you for giving  21 me an opportunity to speak.  22 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Argenziano.  23 REPRESENTATIVE ARGENZIANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  24 And I'd like first of all to thank everybody for coming  25 today. Those people who left will never hear that because</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 it's truly supposed to be a citizen's representative  2 government, and without you taking part, special interests  3 could take hold very quickly. So I'm really proud of  4 you-all for coming and putting your input in.  5 I'm happy to see my constituents here today, and I do  6 represent the west part of Marion County and Citrus County  7 and parts of Hernando County. So many of you traveled here  8 and traveled a distance, and I appreciate that.  9 I just wanted to make one comment. Only one gentleman  10 touched on a point of having such a large legislative  11 delegation is that sometimes, and we usually look at the  12 Cuban caucus, and Representative Diaz-Balart knows we do  13 this, we love them, they're great people, but one thing we  14 admire about them is they have a large delegation for their  15 area. And sometime therefore they are a voting block.  16 And as that one gentleman talked about before, and  17 forgive me I forgot your name, on the wildlife issues,  18 sometimes it really works to benefit you when you have a  19 larger delegation because you have 12 votes right there at  20 hand. So think about that when you talk about changing  21 things. And I do understand the other aspect of that, but  22 it's a power block. And we need to look at that, too.  23 All I can say is I really appreciate the meeting being  24 held here today, and all of your input. And I always enjoy  25 representing you and will continue doing that. Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 first to share in this goal of openness.  2 How inappropriate it would be for us to bring you a  3 plan to look at and maps as if we've already made the  4 decision. How appropriate that the Chairman would be  5 completely open for input and that no maps are being drawn  6 until we have received your input. So I would like to  7 defend the Chairman and our leadership in the way in which  8 they planned that process and say how grateful I am for it.  9 Also fair, and fair covers a lot of different subjects  10 and a lot of different waterfronts. But if we can have a  11 process that's open, fair and finally legal so that we  12 avoid the tug of war and the court system. I certainly  13 don't think it's appropriate to let a panel of three judges  14 draw our map. We, the Representatives in the Legislature  15 that represent your views, should draw that map within the  16 legal confines.  17 And I think if we can achieve that objective of being  18 open and very fair and drawing a legal plan we will have a  19 product that we can all be very grateful and proud to have  20 been a part of.  21 Again, thank you for spending so much time together.  22 This shows that a grassroots government does work. I  23 believe your message has been heard. I believe there is  24 consistent themes and they will be in the plan before the  25 maps are drawn. Thank you, and I appreciate the time with</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Baxley.  2 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  3 First of all, I want to welcome my colleagues to my home  4 Ocala/Marion County. And we have truly grown, and grown in  5 stature in this state. We are right at the cusp between  6 urban and rural Florida. With over 200,000 population, I  7 think we have come to that point where we need to be looked  8 at quite differently as a metro center.  9 There were some comments today about the meeting and I  10 would contrast it for you with the meeting in Jacksonville  11 last night. It was in the evening, I attended there, and  12 we actually had a much larger crowd here and much more  13 input, more speakers, despite what you might call  14 disparaging hours.  15 So I think it also speaks to the fact that this is  16 very important to the members of this community, and they  17 are very interested in providing input to this decision  18 process. I'm so grateful to the chairman for coming to  19 Ocala and giving my colleagues the chance to see the  20 orientation from which I and the delegation operate.  21 I would also like to say that there will be more  22 meetings and I'm thankful to the Chairman for being open on  23 that process. Those are the characteristics that I see  24 developing and I'm very encouraged by them. I tell my  25 constituents that as a member of this committee my goal is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 you.  2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Jennings.  3 REPRESENTATIVE JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for  4 allowing me to make comments. The southern part of my  5 district, Marion County, has become a strong part of  6 District 23 and I enjoy the opportunity to serve Alachua  7 and Marion Counties.  8 I want to say a few things. One, as we go forward I  9 add my comments to those of Representative Argenziano. I  10 think this county having a larger delegation is beneficial  11 as compared to what we do have in Alachua County. By  12 having more than twice as many folks in delegation better  13 things can happen in this particular county than sometimes  14 we can get done in Alachua County because you have a large  15 delegation. I know there are some issues and communities  16 of interest that we want to work together with, but the  17 numbers rule the day when it comes to getting votes and  18 bringing home the pork or the turkey or any other kind of  19 animal that you want to refer to in regard to that.  20 I also want to speak to the commonalities of Alachua  21 and Marion Counties, particularly west Ocala and east  22 Gainesville. Those areas were commented on earlier, they  23 are very important, and are very similar in nature  24 demographically. And I appreciate having the opportunity  25 to serve them.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 I did want to correct one of the former speakers that  2 this is not a minority access district or a majority  3 minority district. I appreciate that there is strong  4 diversity of constituents in that district. I appreciate  5 having the opportunity to serve them. And I am proud in  6 some ways but also in others I wish there was more  7 diversity in the Marion County delegation as well as in  8 Marion County public service. I was the only  9 African-American on the ballot in November and not only at  10 the state House and Senate level, but also at the county  11 commissioner and county school board level.  12 I think the community is averse to this. Hopefully we  13 will have some more diverse representation in that going  14 forward. That is one of my goals as I try to lead this  15 community.  16 I hope also, Mr. Chairman, Senator Smith's comments  17 and others that we can go ahead and firm up a meeting in  18 Alachua County so that those folks who have concerns  19 there -- we have done that or are doing that. And soon as  20 that does happen that we can make that known to not only  21 the members but to the public.  22 I also am very happy of those who sacrificed to be  23 here today, but I think there is also a larger portion, we  24 could probably have had twice as many here if we do have at  25 least some evening meetings as well. So I hope that we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 have come here.  2 I am very surprised to see not only -- well I  3 shouldn't say I really am surprised, my district in  4 District 11 has traditionally been very passionate and very  5 active and I have always realized that we have always  6 needed extra help because of the many active constituents.  7 But when I have come to this meeting today and seen  8 how many people have some very, very good suggestions for  9 this committee, this is our third committee, we have  10 already had one hearing in Tallahassee and another hearing  11 yesterday in Jacksonville, and I take copious notes on  12 things that I feel are helpful to our group here and to our  13 deliberations later. And I must say this is the first time  14 I have taken anything more than a page. You have come up  15 with very viable suggestions and very reasonable ones. And  16 I think those suggestions will be well thought of when we  17 go through our deliberations as a committee.  18 Again, I am certainly pleased to see you-all here.  19 And my office is always open to you. I brought Emory  20 Norman as one of my legislative aides. She has been  21 sitting here watching as a lot of other aides have come  22 through. And I want to thank all of you, including the  23 former Representatives and all the elected officials that  24 have come before us. And thank you, and we're open to all  25 your suggestions, even after the lines may be temporarily</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 continue to keep that in mind as we travel around the  2 state.  3 I think the issue of communities of interest and  4 compactness are very important. I hope we continue to  5 stress those issues as we go forward.  6 I want to thank the citizens of Marion County for  7 allowing me to represent them. I try to visit this area as  8 much as possible because now it's a part of my home. And  9 thank you-all for this opportunity and I look forward to  10 representing you in the future.  11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Senator Cowin.  12 SENATOR COWIN: I just want to welcome everybody from  13 my district. As chairman of the Marion County delegation,  14 I must say it is a large group but you are very well served  15 by the four Senators and the eight Representatives here.  16 And I think when I go over to the House to try to get  17 assistance, it's awfully nice to know that I can go up and  18 down the aisles on both Republican and Democratic sides and  19 get support both ways. So you have been well served.  20 There is a balance certainly in having too many and maybe  21 it can be a little bit unwieldy, but we have a powerhouse  22 here in Marion County.  23 I also want to thank all the people that came from  24 outside the area, Citrus County, which I serve west Citrus.  25 And likewise there are people from Lake and Sumpter that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 drawn.  2 For all of you who don't know, there is a disk that is  3 available. So all the information you have is what we  4 have. And I think this process is a far better process  5 than it was what I heard ten years ago about doing things  6 behind closed doors. This is a lot more open process. We  7 are getting the input and everybody can see everything that  8 we are doing and it can only lead to a better product.  9 Thank you for all your input.  10 SENATOR WEBSTER: Senator Brown-Waite.  11 SENATOR BROWN-WAITE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  12 don't represent Alachua County or Marion County. My  13 counties are just a little bit south of here, certainly  14 Sumpter County, which adjoins this county.  15 However, we have many things in common. As I travel  16 around attending these hearings, I keep hearing every  17 county wants to have their own Senator and we will have to  18 amend the Constitution because we are going to need to  19 increase that number from 40 to 67.  20 There is a benefit to having more than one  21 Representative. I know very often counties feel as if they  22 are divided up too much. But if, for example, the one  23 county that I represent where I am the only Senator from  24 that county, should I not agree with something that a  25 constituent wants introduced, he or she virtually would be</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 somewhat disenfranchised.</p> <p>2 So the good news is even if you end up with a few</p> <p>3 Senators in your area that you always have someone else to</p> <p>4 go to should that one Senator not agree with you.</p> <p>5 We have heard certainly that you want to have like</p> <p>6 communities together and that you want to have a</p> <p>7 compactness. And that seems to be resounding throughout</p> <p>8 all of the hearings. And that's something that as a</p> <p>9 legislator I can just tell you that future legislators</p> <p>10 would also want to have.</p> <p>11 I spend a lot of time in my vehicle going from one</p> <p>12 part of my district all the way down to Polk County, which</p> <p>13 is about 106 miles distance that I can travel very often</p> <p>14 twice a day back and forth. So, believe me, compactness is</p> <p>15 something elected officials look forward to also.</p> <p>16 And I want to thank each and every one of you for</p> <p>17 being here today. And certainly this is a great way to</p> <p>18 have your views heard. And when we set these hearing</p> <p>19 dates, we were told, you know, don't have any during the</p> <p>20 day. Well, guess what? There was better attendance and</p> <p>21 more speakers at this than the one that we had at night.</p> <p>22 Obviously the public's interest is there whether it be day</p> <p>23 or night meetings that we have. And, again, thank you very</p> <p>24 much for being here.</p> <p>25 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Gibson.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 Alachua County for another hearing.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Pickens.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE PICKENS: That's McGriff-Pickens.</p> <p>4 (Laughter.)</p> <p>5 I told my best joke last night in Jacksonville, I'm</p> <p>6 not going to belabor that. It occurred to me on the way</p> <p>7 home that I'll never get the chance to have the undivided</p> <p>8 attention of at least six state Senators for four minutes</p> <p>9 so I'm going to take advantage of that opportunity, ladies</p> <p>10 and gentlemen.</p> <p>11 Before I do so, lest I suffer the fate of Speaker</p> <p>12 Number 8, and you'll remember him, let me compliment</p> <p>13 Representatives Jennings and Baxley on the fine job that</p> <p>14 you did this year, and I want to keep my ambulatory ability</p> <p>15 as a result of that compliment. (Laughter.)</p> <p>16 Also, let me point out to Representatives Baker and</p> <p>17 Greenstein that I was not the first person to mention the</p> <p>18 Rodman Reservoir in this building. But I would be remiss,</p> <p>19 since Rodman Reservoir is entirely with District 21, I</p> <p>20 would be remiss not to mention it today and remind you of</p> <p>21 how important it is to my constituents, who have, despite</p> <p>22 the fact that we cross county lines, a commonality of</p> <p>23 interest in the preservation of Rodman Reservoir in Marion</p> <p>24 and Putnam Counties.</p> <p>25 It seemed to me in listening to everyone today that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's</p> <p>2 a pleasure to be here today. This is the first time I've</p> <p>3 ever been involved with reapportionment. I cover the south</p> <p>4 portion of Marion County from south Belleview down, and I</p> <p>5 cover most of Sumpter County and a great portion of Lake.</p> <p>6 It's great to see my constituents here. That means</p> <p>7 they are concerned about the redistricting. And I think we</p> <p>8 all are. One thing that I was sort of a little appalled by</p> <p>9 was to see the different precincts that have been divided.</p> <p>10 And I really would like to see it compacted. And I think</p> <p>11 this is a good start and I know this committee is going to</p> <p>12 be fair and unbiased. And I'm sure we're going to come up</p> <p>13 with a good redistricting, and I'm proud to see you people</p> <p>14 here. Thank you.</p> <p>15 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative McGriff.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE McGRUFF: My name is Perry McGriff and</p> <p>17 I live in Gainesville, House District 22, which is Alachua</p> <p>18 County and the western part of Marion County. Most of my</p> <p>19 representation for Marion County is Marion Oaks, which is a</p> <p>20 further distance down.</p> <p>21 I'd like to thank all the folks for coming. I'd like</p> <p>22 to especially thank the committee for your outstanding</p> <p>23 work. You have got a long, hard road ahead of you and I</p> <p>24 want to encourage you to keep this up. And the only</p> <p>25 request that I would like to really ask is please come to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 your task is extremely simple and impossible. Those</p> <p>2 districts that are intact and compact, you need to keep</p> <p>3 them that way. And those districts that are not intact and</p> <p>4 compact, you need to make them that way, but not of course</p> <p>5 at the expense of the districts that are currently intact</p> <p>6 and compact. Need I repeat myself on that? (Laughter.)</p> <p>7 And then we learned from the university professor that</p> <p>8 boundary lines of counties is the first thing that you look</p> <p>9 at. And I thought, Well, that's pretty simple. And then I</p> <p>10 hear from somebody who lives in The Villages and they tell</p> <p>11 me that we cross three county boundaries and our community</p> <p>12 of interest is our community of interest, not our county of</p> <p>13 interest.</p> <p>14 Or you read the letter from the mayor of Keystone</p> <p>15 Heights -- which you will, I put it in your packets</p> <p>16 night -- where he tells you that the community of interest</p> <p>17 of Bradford and Putnam and Clay Counties in that corner of</p> <p>18 Keystone Heights and Melrose and Putnam Hall is a community</p> <p>19 of interest that certainly crosses county lines.</p> <p>20 So I suggest to all of you who are critical, all of us</p> <p>21 who will be making this decision, please respect the</p> <p>22 enormity of the task that is before this committee and</p> <p>23 ultimately before the Senate and the House of</p> <p>24 Representatives. I think these committee meetings are a</p> <p>25 wonderful way to get the input, but ultimately decisions</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 must be made.</p> <p>2 And, remember this, if next year after these lines are</p> <p>3 drawn Representative Pickens and Representative Jennings,</p> <p>4 and Representative Baxley, and Senator Webster are going to</p> <p>5 lunch, at the restaurant of Senator Webster's choice of</p> <p>6 course, and we get run over by a Greyhound bus, the</p> <p>7 personalities that mask the problems within the district</p> <p>8 will be gone because the persons that people like will all</p> <p>9 of a sudden no longer be there and the bareness of the</p> <p>10 districts that you create and the commonalities that you</p> <p>11 have found and created will be there for the next person or</p> <p>12 persons to run in.</p> <p>13 So when I hear personalities mentioned, I'm</p> <p>14 disappointed. When I hear commonalities of interest</p> <p>15 mentioned, I'm very invigorated at the whole process.</p> <p>16 Thank you for the time.</p> <p>17 SENATOR WEBSTER: Are there any other members that</p> <p>18 would like to speak? Representative Wiles.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE WILES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,</p> <p>20 Speaker Webster. And while I won't comment on the</p> <p>21 proceedings today, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize</p> <p>22 those in the audience and others who have left who have</p> <p>23 taken the time out of their day to come give testimony</p> <p>24 today. I'm sure there are many other things that many of</p> <p>25 you could be doing today, but I think all of us, me</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 opinion in this community and the surrounding counties as</p> <p>2 to what their desires are.</p> <p>3 And while we know that the 40-plus people who</p> <p>4 testified may or may not represent the entire sentiments of</p> <p>5 the community, I think that perhaps if we had had an</p> <p>6 evening meeting we might have had twice as many people here</p> <p>7 to testify at night and maybe we would have heard even more</p> <p>8 of what we heard today.</p> <p>9 When you hear things like don't split the counties in</p> <p>10 multiple districts any more than the population of the</p> <p>11 county would allow, you know, some people would do that</p> <p>12 favorably, some might do that unfavorably. But I am one</p> <p>13 who believes fervently that you do have to listen to the</p> <p>14 people, that you do have to respond to what their requests</p> <p>15 are and do the very best you can with that input.</p> <p>16 We heard that there are at least 12 Representatives</p> <p>17 and Senators who represent the Marion County area. I find</p> <p>18 that pretty impressive, especially when you consider that</p> <p>19 today you have, depending on which numbers you believe,</p> <p>20 250,000, 260,000 people in Marion County. And obviously</p> <p>21 they want to be closer to their elected officials, they</p> <p>22 want to have greater access, they want to have more input,</p> <p>23 and ultimately I guess feel like their vote has more</p> <p>24 strength, and would like to hold their elected officials</p> <p>25 more accountable.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 included, are very much appreciative of you taking the time</p> <p>2 to let us hear what you have to say.</p> <p>3 Speaker Webster, I know that both in Tallahassee and</p> <p>4 last evening in Jacksonville there were a few members that</p> <p>5 had a number of questions regarding the procedure and</p> <p>6 protocol of the meetings that are being conducted. And I</p> <p>7 further understand your desire and your intent on focusing</p> <p>8 on questions and comments made by the audience.</p> <p>9 As a result, for your convenience and that of the</p> <p>10 staff, I have a letter from Senator Rossin and</p> <p>11 Representative Frankel which has summarized the scope of</p> <p>12 those questions that are being asked, and would ask that</p> <p>13 they be placed in the public record today so that you will</p> <p>14 have a clear indication of what those questions are with a</p> <p>15 request that as soon as practical you take a look, along</p> <p>16 with Representative Byrd, and provide some response to</p> <p>17 those.</p> <p>18 I'll turn those over to the staff for inclusion in the</p> <p>19 public record today and will not ask any questions. Thank</p> <p>20 you, Mr. Speaker.</p> <p>21 SENATOR WEBSTER: Senator Jones.</p> <p>22 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having been</p> <p>23 here and listened to the comments that were made today, I</p> <p>24 thought there were tremendous comments made. One of the</p> <p>25 things that became clear to me is that there is a definite</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 While all the elected officials I'm sure feel that</p> <p>2 they are doing their very best in representing this area,</p> <p>3 certainly the people have some concerns about that. And I</p> <p>4 certainly respect that.</p> <p>5 I also believe that they, given this input, that they</p> <p>6 want us to respect the natural and political boundaries;</p> <p>7 i.e., the counties and their municipalities and communities</p> <p>8 of interest. We have had a couple of people talk about the</p> <p>9 timing of the hearings, as I mentioned before. Certainly</p> <p>10 people from the audience and as well as members up on this</p> <p>11 podium have asked for more meetings.</p> <p>12 A couple of folks talked about whether or not it makes</p> <p>13 sense to have hearings prior to the maps being drawn as</p> <p>14 opposed to later. It obviously makes sense to have them at</p> <p>15 both periods. We do want to have the input of the public</p> <p>16 prior to drawing the lines. And we also want to test what</p> <p>17 we draw with you to see if we've done a decent job. And I</p> <p>18 think it's important to have that kind of input as well.</p> <p>19 I'm not sure, Mr. Chairman, I was on reapportionment</p> <p>20 ten years ago, on the committee, if I'm not mistaken I</p> <p>21 thought we had at least a few meetings after we drew some</p> <p>22 lines to obtain some level of public input. That's my</p> <p>23 recollection, it could be wrong.</p> <p>24 I do think it's important for us to publish a set of</p> <p>25 objectives that are consistent and provide some level of</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 fairness in the standards. And certainly ten years ago we  2 did adopt some guiding principles as relates to  3 reapportionment.</p> <p>4 And I did write down one quote from a person, there  5 were very good quotes made. I thought Mr. Moore's eight  6 principles were pretty good. But at the same time I heard  7 another quote when someone said, When you divide a small  8 county into two or more districts you further marginalize  9 the input that they have. And in some cases that may be  10 true. In some cases, it's not.</p> <p>11 I represent an area, the City of Homestead. And the  12 City of Homestead has only one Senator, only one state  13 Representative. I take that back, two state  14 Representatives, but they have three congressmen. And --  15 well actually two congresswomen, one congressman. And  16 right after Hurricane Andrew occurred ten years ago, or  17 nine years ago come August 24, they had tremendous  18 influence over the actions of their congresspersons.</p> <p>19 But since a lot of that has subsided and the community  20 has essentially recovered from that, their input to those  21 congresspersons is marginal at best. The town is a fairly  22 small town, about 30,000 people. So for awhile when there  23 was a sense of urgency, they were able to basically dictate  24 the agenda of the Senator, two Representatives and the  25 congressperson, but without that sense of urgency, it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 me, my district is so far south of here I had to take a  2 boat, a plane and an automobile to get here. But it was  3 worth it for me because the tenor of the discussion here  4 was at a very high level. And I appreciate all of the  5 citizens that came out here and spoke.</p> <p>6 And I have been -- I was at the Tallahassee first  7 hearing that we had. I missed the one in Jacksonville last  8 night. But the quality of the speakers here and the focus  9 on some objective criteria, some objective standards in  10 redistricting was the common thread that we heard this  11 afternoon. And that goes along with a message that I think  12 all of us up here are interested in, and that is that we  13 avoid as much partnership as possible and we put the  14 interests of the citizens first and foremost in this  15 process.</p> <p>16 And we can't rely solely on dividing by political  17 subdivision. Then we go back to the type of process that  18 we had prior to 1967 where you had Senators and  19 Representatives simply representing the counties.</p> <p>20 I think it's certainly an issue that is important,  21 especially when it dovetails with compactness. And  22 compactness means physical access to your Representative  23 and your Senator. Sometimes it's not possible in some of  24 the rural areas without quite a drive, but compactness is  25 certainly a critical issue. And I hope that we will</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 wasn't as effective.</p> <p>2 So I think I clearly understand those who want to have  3 fewer Representatives and have better access and greater  4 ability to influence their agenda.</p> <p>5 I think that the openness of the process here, I think  6 that the committee chairmen have done and the committee as  7 a whole has done an outstanding job in making sure the  8 process this year is as open as it possibly can be; putting  9 all the items that are applicable on the web so that people  10 can have access to it, giving you as much ability to see  11 what we are doing or what we have done in the past here.</p> <p>12 Ten years ago we weren't able to be quite as open  13 because we didn't have ourselves set up to function well on  14 the web. And a lot of people weren't using computers ten  15 years ago. You can imagine how things have changed since  16 then.</p> <p>17 So all in all I think we are heading in a good  18 direction, Mr. Chairman. I would say that we might want to  19 reevaluate some of the timing of when our meetings occur.  20 Perhaps they would end up being a little bit longer if we  21 had them in the evening, but I think it's paramount to have  22 as much input from the public as possible. Thank you very  23 much.</p> <p>24 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Ryan.  25 REPRESENTATIVE RYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 continue to utilize that as an objective standard.</p> <p>2 And also some recognition there is only so much that  3 you can do based upon the way the districts are already  4 drawn. There are a number of Representatives and Senators  5 that have performed an extraordinary and quality service in  6 communities, and these communities don't want to see those  7 Representatives and Senators gone and have some rookie come  8 in. They want somebody they can trust, somebody that  9 worked for them in the past. So that's another factor that  10 we need to consider.</p> <p>11 But all in all I do hope that we will continue to  12 consider the dialog on developing our objective standards,  13 the compactness, the communities of interest. I heard a  14 lot about Citrus County and I think the issue on growth is  15 so important in Citrus County. Also in Marion with the  16 explosive growth they have had, the impacts on housing  17 which you have had in these various areas, you need to have  18 a Representative and Senator that you can have as your  19 go-to person to have your interests heard on the floor and  20 the chamber of the House and the Senate.</p> <p>21 As we go through the process I appreciate the openness  22 and the opportunity that the Representatives and Senators  23 have to seek on the issue and I hope that we will continue  24 with our dialog about adopting some objective standards to  25 guide us through this process so that we can continue to</p>

keep it as fair as possible for all.

SENATOR WEBSTER: Anyone else?

(No response.)

SENATOR WEBSTER: Before we close I'd like to make one disclaimer. I was indicted by Dr. Casey as having drawn the plan that divided up Marion County; however, I did not do that. I was in the minority party at the time. I voted against every single line, House and Senate, every district that exists today. There were others up here that did, there were others that voted for it. And I appreciate the dialog and the change of direction we have had since then.

So I just want to let you know, Dr. Casey, maybe I took credit for it, I didn't mean to because I didn't do it. Okay. With that, anyone else want to speak?

(No response.)

SENATOR WEBSTER: We're adjourned.

(Hearing adjourned at 4:30 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA:

County OF LEON:

I, KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

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